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THE NEW OPERA HOUSE.—The work on the splendid building for the American Academy of Music, at the corner of Broad and Locust streets, is progressing rapidly. The first story is nearly up, and the handsome brown stone front on Broad street gives earnest of what the structure will be when completed.

The following particulars in relation to the new Opera House will give our readers an idea of its size and capacity. The building has a front of 140 feet on Broad street; with a depth of 238 feet on Locust street.

The following are the dimensions of the principal parts of the structure:—

Width of stage department 150 feet; width of stage proper, 90 feet; depth 73 feet; width of auditorium between the walls, 90 feet; height to dome, 70 feet; depth from curtain to back of boxes, 102 feet; width of curtain 48 feet; height, 48 feet; width of lobbies, at proscenium, 9 feet, gradually widening at vestibule entrance to 13 feet; entrance of lobby on Broad street, 10 by 73 feet; vestibule on Broad street, 23 by 73 feet; two main stairways in vestibule, width of each 13 feet; width of same to second tier, 8 feet; to third, 7 feet. The grand saloon, which can be used for concerts, lectures, balls, &c., is 39 by 86 feet; height of same, 30 feet; the number of exit doors is 14, all of them opening outward, comprising a space of 117 feet; so that a full house can be discharged in from four to five minutes; the covered carriage way is 70 feet on Locust street to curb; width of Broad street pavement, 18 feet; Locust street, do. 12 feet; stage excavation below the floor, 10 feet; under remainder of the house, 8 1/2 feet; heated by steam generated in two boilers. The auditorium is to be illuminated by a circle in the dome, containing 500 jets, also by two rows of jets, along the cornices, and by bracket lights against the walls.

There will be ventilating flues throughout the house, connecting with the main ventilating shaft, over the illuminating circle. The parquet entrances are, to wit: two at orchestra, 3 feet wide, gradually enlarging to 6 1/2 feet at lobby, with two additional side entrances, each 5 1/2 feet wide. Numerous other passages throughout the house, leading to seats, commence along the inner circle, being two feet broad, and gradually widening to 4 feet at lobbies. Restaurant in basement, 26 by 62 feet; height of the building to cornice 90 feet. The roof will be of iron, main span 90 feet; passage way on south flank 10 feet; passage way on rear to Westmoreland street 15 feet; a balcony on Broad and also on Locust street, each 70 feet.

These facts and figures are a sufficient evidence that the New Opera House will be worthy of Philadelphia, while the rapid progress being made with the work renders its speedy completion almost certain.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC—

TO ARCHITECTS.—A Premium of \$400 will be awarded for such Design as may be adopted, and \$200 for the next best, for an Opera House, to be erected at the Southwest corner of Broad and Locust streets, in the City of Philadelphia. The external dimensions of the building to be 150 feet front on Broad street, by 238 feet depth on Locust street; to be of simple but imposing style of architecture—the material of brick, with single or double walls. The lower story on Broad and Locust streets, and the dressings of the entire building, to be of granite, brown stone, or cast iron. The front and Locust street flank, of pressed brick; the south flank and rear, of good front stretchers. There being streets on front and flanks, public exits must be provided on all. The house to be so arranged as to comfortably seat four thousand persons in not more than three tiers of boxes, a balcony, and parquet. To have proper saloons, wide passages, and stairways—the latter to be of iron or stone. Particular attention must be given to the comfort of the audience—freedom of exit, perfection of ventilation, heating, lighting, decoration, and acoustic properties; and for the prevention of fire, provision must be made to heat the entire house by fires under the footways of the streets.

The designs must include complete ground plans of each story, front and flank elevations, sections through the house, and all necessary drawings for scenic arrangements, &c., &c., all drawn to a scale of one-eighth of an inch to the foot, and must be accompanied by an estimate of cost, as well as detailed descriptions of the plans, showing the method proposed for ventilating, heating, lighting, &c., &c.

The plans to be sealed, endorsed, and delivered on or before the 20th of November next, at 107 WALNUT street, White's building, Office No. 5. The designs will all be opened on the same day, and Architects may fully rely on an impartial decision upon the plans on their merits, for originality of design and adaptation to the purpose required.

Further particulars of the views of the Building Committee can be obtained at the above named office.

By order of the Committee. cc2 5 10 13 16if SAMUEL BRANSON, Secretary.

TRIAL OF THE NEW NEW ORLEANS STEAM FIRE ENGINE.—

The new steam fire engine built for the city of New Orleans having been completed, it was taken yesterday from the shop of Messrs. Latta & Co., builders, to the Canal basin, for trial. The beauty of the machine caused a great many persons to follow it to the place of trial, and there witness its operation. Steam was raised in six minutes, with the water through the hose. Streams of water were thrown through an inch and three-quarter nozzle 210 feet; one and a half nozzle 240 feet; one and three-eighth nozzle, 247 feet. Two streams through one inch nozzles were then thrown 265 feet, four streams through seven-eighth inch nozzle 168 feet. This throwing of water has never been equalled, and proves for the engine that it is more than ordinary. The engine weighs about seventy-five hundred, and is about the lightest the brothers Latta have built. She is now ready for the Crescent city, and will leave in a few days for the river, on one of the New Orleans steamers.

A SUPPLEMENT to an Ordinance approved October 3d, 1854, entitled "An Ordinance organizing the Department for supplying the City with Water."

Section 1. The Select and Common Councils of the city of Philadelphia do ordain, That all Water Rents shall be payable to the Register of Water Rents, at his office, annually, in advance, on the second Monday in January; and upon all water rents unpaid upon the first day of April in any year, there shall be charged the sum of five per centum, and upon all rents unpaid on the first day of July in any year, there shall be charged an additional sum of ten per centum. And if any such rent, with the said additional charges, shall remain unpaid on the first day of September, in any year, the said Register shall notify the Chief Engineer of the water works of the name of such delinquent, who shall cause the ferrules of all such delinquent water tenants to be detached from the pipe of a main, and suit be instituted for the recovery of such rent; and after such ferrules shall have been detached, the water shall not again be supplied or furnished to the said premises, except upon payment of all arrears of water rent, and the sum of two dollars for expenses incurred, and a printed notice containing the first section hereof shall be left upon the premises.

Section 2. The said Register shall cause notice to be inserted in two or more of the daily newspapers of the city, and published in posted handbills, of the time and place when and where the water rents are payable, and the penalties for delay in, and for the non payment thereof. Section 3. The water tenants of the city shall be charged for the water for the year 1855 at the same rate they were respectively charged for water for the year 1854; but all permits issued for the year 1855, shall be charged at the rate of the corporation of the Mayor, Aldermen and citizens of Philadelphia, for the year 1854.

Section 4. That the tenth section of the ordinance to which this is a supplement, be and the same is hereby repealed.

Enacted into an Ordinance at the City of Philadelphia, the 26th day of December, A. D. 1854.

JOHN H. DIEHL, President of Common Council. JOHN P. VERREE, President of Select Council.

Attest—EDMUND WILCOX, Clerk of the Select Council.

Approved the 29th day of December, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

R. T. CONRAD, Mayor.

Weights of Different Kinds of Coals.

Taylor's Statistics of Coal gives the following: Average Weights of a Cubic Yard of American, European and Asiatic Coals.

American Bituminous Anthra. Int. Species. 2,560 lbs. 2,601 lbs. 2,475 lbs. European 2,164 " 2,251 " Asiatic 2,277 "

Customs, Weights and Measures of Coal at different places.

Ordinary estimate of Bituminous Coal, 28 bushels equal to 1 ton of 2,240 lbs.

At the West it is often sold by 26 2/3 bushels, equal to 1 ton of 2,240 lbs.

At Richmond (Va.) coal pits, 5 pecks are sold to the bushel, and a bushel weighs 90 lbs.

At the South, bituminous coal is sold by the barrel, weighing 172 1/2 lbs., equal to 13 barrels to 1 ton.

In Philadelphia, 2,240, according to Judge Grier's decision; according to the Legislature, 2,000. The U. S. Court's decision overrules the State law.

A New York ton is 2,000 lbs.

Foreign bituminous coal is charged per 1,000 lbs. by the chaldron, of 36 bushels, weighing 25 cwt.

A Nova Scotia chaldron is 1 1/2 tons, or 3,360 lbs. of 42 bushels; but the measurement yields 44 bushels.

The official returns to Congress comprehend all bituminous coals throughout the Union (be their specific gravities what they may) at 80 lbs. to the bushel, and 28 bushels to the ton.

In Boston a retail chaldron is commonly 2,560 pounds.

Areas of Coal Fields in the U. States and Europe.

Table with 2 columns: AREA IN SQUARE MILES and PROBABLE ANNUAL PRODUCTION. Rows include Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Missouri, British America, Great Britain, G. Brit. & Ireland, France, Spain, and United States. Includes a section for Probable Annual Production with rows for Brit. Islands, Austria, Belgium, France, Prussia, and United States.

THE STEAM ENGINE IN BOSTON.—

The Board of Aldermen, in Boston, have ordered the steam fire engine to be put in readiness for use, but it was found that the order was subsequently withdrawn. The Journal says:—

"Alderman Drew is obstinately determined that the steam fire-engine shall not be used, and seems insensible to public opinion which demands for the machine a fair trial. Old fogysm has evidently found a refuge in the Fire Department, and a representative in the chairman of the committee. The people must find a means of smothering it out."

The Louisville (Ky.) Courier says that, on Saturday last, in presence of the Council of that city, Messrs. Lawson & Pearce, machinists, tried a steam fire engine of their construction.

Three sections of hose were laid, and, with a short pipe and an inch and a quarter nozzle, she threw a perfect stream of water a distance of two hundred and ten feet, and would have certainly increased the distance if the hose had not burst. This is a performance that no hand engine ever did compete with. She subsequently threw two streams 164 feet, which were steadily kept up as the water lasted in the cistern. The force of the water was so great that it tore the bricks from the top of the wall of the machine shop, a building three or four stories high. The performance was pronounced highly successful, and we heard an old and thoroughly experienced fireman say that the steam engine is equal to any four engines, and that it can throw two steady streams of water, and higher than any of our hand engines can throw one; in addition to which, it never tires.

The resolution was referred to the Committee on Highways.

Mr. Biddle submitted an ordinance, reducing the salaries of the City Officers as follows:—

- Mayor, (all fees to be paid into the Treasury,) \$3000
Chief Clerk, 1000
Messenger, 500
Controller, 2000
Chief Clerk, 1000
Assistant Clerk, 900
Messenger, 500
City Treasurer, 2500
Book Keeper, 1000
Stock Clerk and two Miscel. Clerks, 850
Messenger, 500
Receiver of Taxes, 2000
Chief Clerk, 1000
Six Clerks, 800
Receiver of Taxes, 500
Each Superintendent of Public Squares and Parks, 500
Each Superintendent of Independence Hall, 600
Each Superintendent of S. Garden Hall, 600
City Burial Ground, 400
License Clerk in Department of Highways, Bridges, Sewers, and Cleansing City, 800
Marshal's Clerk, 700
City Solicitor, 2000
First Assistant, 1500
Other Assistants, each 900
Clerk, 700
Chief Engineer of Water Department, 2000
Register of Water Rents, 1500
Yearly salary of each Water Purveyor, 600
Engineer and Engineer Water Department, and dwelling rent free, 600
Yearly salary of Water Inspectors, each 600
each Fireman and Watchman at the Reservoir, 550
General Clerk in the Water Department, 900
Permit Clerks, 800
Messenger, 500
Commissioner of Market Houses, 500
Clerk of Wharton and Washington Street Markets, Second and Fourth Wards, 400
Clerk of Eleventh Street Market, Third and Fourth Wards, 250
Clerks of Second Street Market and Stands, Chesnut to South street, Fifth Ward, 400
Clerk of Market Street Market from Front to Seventh street, and the Stands on Second street from Market to Vine, Sixth Ward, 400
Clerks of Markets and Stands on Market st. from Seventh to Seventeenth, and the Market and Race and Broad sts., in the Ninth and Tenth Wards, 400
The Clerk of Second st. Market, from Vine to Poplar, Eleventh Ward, 400
Clerk of Callowhill st. Market, from Fourth to Seventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Wards, 300
Clerk of Spring Garden st. Market, from Marshall to Twelfth st., in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Wards, 400
Clerk of Girard Avenue Market, from Sixth to Twelfth, in the Twentieth Ward, 250
Clerk of Franklin Avenue Market, from Sixth to Frankford Road, in Sixteenth and Seventeenth Wards, 300
Clerk of Franklin Avenue Market, east of Frankford road, and the Market in Beach street above Maiden, in York street above Frankford road, in Lehigh avenue west of Richmond street, in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Wards, 200
Superintendent of Wharves and Landings, 700
Each City Commissioner, 1500
City Commissioners' Chief Clerk, 1000
Each Assistant Clerk and Recording Clerk in Department of City Commissioners, 700
Section 2. The said salaries shall be payable at the time and in the manner now specified by him.
Section 3. No additional clerks or officers not specified by ordinance shall at any time be employed in any of the Departments, or by any of the officers of the city, without the consent of Councils being first obtained.

Mr. Kline moved that they proceed to nominate candidates for the office of Engineer of Water Works.

Mr. Verree, the President, decided that they should proceed in regular order, commencing with the Commissioner of City Property.

The roll was called and the following vote polled: George J. Hamilton, 50 | Paul Pohl, 43 Robert A. Parrish, 3 | 36-8

George J. Hamilton was declared elected. The vote for Chief Commissioner of Highways was as follows: Thomas Birch, 53 | Andrew J. Wester, 42

Thomas Birch was declared elected. The vote for Engineer of Water Works was as follows: Frederick Graeff, 49 | Frederick Erdman, 45

Frederick Graeff was declared elected. Upon the announcement of this vote there was much applause in the gallery.

The vote for Superintendent of Wharves and Landings was as follows: James Homer, 56 | Joseph Hunneker, 40

James Homer was declared elected, and the members of the Select Branch retired to the Chamber.