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The ordinance organizing the Water Department was, on motion of Mr. Bullock, taken up.

The Chamber then went into Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the ordinance. Mr. Cornman in the chair.

The section requiring the Chief Engineer to give security in the amount of \$5000 was, on motion, stricken out of the ordinance.

Mr. Hutchinson offered as an addition to the bill the 18th section.

Mr. Hinman opposed the additional section and deemed it not only unnecessary but as decidedly objectionable.

Mr. Hutchinson thought Councils could not exercise too strict a supervision over these departments.

Mr. Hinman saw a serious objection; the head of the department would be better able to judge of what was best than any majority of the committee. He would have more confidence in the opinion of a gentleman who had long experience than in his own, until he had inquired well into the matter under consideration.

Mr. P. A. Keyser was of opinion the section was useless, but he thought at the same time that it was harmless.

The question being taken, the additional section was adopted as given below.

The ordinance having been read and adopted by sections, the Committee rose and reported the bill.

Select Council then went into the consideration of the bill. It was read by Sections, and the Sections generally were adopted without amendment.

Mr. Cornman moved to strike out \$3000 as the salary of the Chief Engineer, and substitute \$2000. He went on the principle established by Councils, that where no security was required from an officer the salary should be reduced accordingly.

Mr. Hinman desired to know what salary the City Controller received, and what security he gave.

A voice—"He receives \$3000 and gives no security."

Mr. Cornman thought Mr. Hinman was begging the question. If wrong was done in one instance it was no reason why wrong should be done in another. He considered the office of Chief Engineer a useless one, and if it was only a head that was wanted, a blockhead would answer the purpose as well as anything else.

Messrs. Bullock and Hinman reviewed the duties of a Chief Engineer, and contended that the office was one of the most important in the City.

The amendment was lost by the following vote:

Yeas—Messrs. Cornman, Dr. Marselis, Stokes, Verree, President—4.

Nays—Messrs. Bullock, Caldwell, Hinman, Jones, Hutchinson, N. L. Keyser, P. A. Keyser, Dr. Knorr, H. L. Smith, Wm. S. Smith, Waterman—11.

Messrs. Kline, Pratt, Sandgran and Selby, declined voting.

Mr. Cornman moved to amend by substituting \$2500 for \$3000.

Mr. Cornman contended that even though the officer might need to be something more than a blockhead, he would only need locomotion and the knowledge of the streets when he came to them. He scouted the idea that the office was an important one.

The gentleman continued at considerable length in support of his views of the unimportance of the office, and spoke of the disparity between the pay received by poor men in public office and those who occupied higher position. Mr. C. in the course of his remarks, said he had seen a bill for \$300 for preparing a bill and securing its passage through Councils.

Mr. Bullock denied that any compensation had been given for drawing the bill, and said further that no person, likely to fill any office in the department, had been consulted by the Committee.

The question being taken on the amendment reducing the salary of the Chief Engineer to \$2,500, it was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas—Messrs. Caldwell, Cornman, Hutchinson, N. L. Keyser, Kline, Marselis, Pratt, Sandgran, Selby, Stokes, Verree, President—11.

Nays—Messrs. Bullock, Hinman, Jones, P. A. Keyser, Knorr, Wm. S. Smith, Waterman—7.

The other sections were adopted, and the bill, as passed finally a third reading, is as follows:

The following is the ordinance as it was adopted by Select Council:

An Ordinance Organizing the Department for supplying the City with Water.

Section 1. The Select and Common Councils shall, on the passage hereof, and annually thereafter in the month of July, and whenever a vacancy shall occur by death, resignation or otherwise, elect by *viva voce* vote in joint meeting, a Chief Engineer of the water department; he shall hold his office until his successor be chosen at the annual time fixed therefor, unless sooner removed by a resolution of Councils.

Section 2. The head of this Department shall be called Chief Engineer of the Water Works, he shall have charge and care of the water works of the City of Philadelphia, including mill-houses, steam-engine houses and their machinery, the reservoirs, pipes, mains, dams, fire-plugs, property, and fixtures of every kind connected with the same; he shall exercise general control and oversight over all the officers connected therewith, and assign and direct their duties so as to carry on the details of the works; he shall attend to the direction of all new works, now or hereafter to be constructed.

Section 3. He shall take immediate measures for the repair of any damage which may happen to the machinery or fixtures connected therewith.

Section 4. He shall make an annual report to Councils of the condition of the works under his care, and if any, and what extensions are necessary.

Section 5. He shall prepare all plans of construction, make all necessary estimates connected with the works, whether for construction or repairs, certify all accounts, bills and contracts for materials purchased, or labor performed under his direction; shall notify Councils or their Committee, of all breaches of contract, and supervise and arrange all contracts for labor to be performed, or materials to be purchased, and for the purchase or laying down of such mains, pipes and fixtures, as may from time to time be directed by Councils.

Section 6. In this department shall be four Water Purveyors. The Water Purveyors to have immediate charge of all the mains, pipes, stop-cocks, fire-plugs, and other fixtures appertaining to the distribution of water through

the City, and to personally attend to the laying of new pipes as well as the repairs of the pipes, fire-plugs, and other fixtures that may require it; to attend to the drilling of the pipes for making attachments, shutting off the pipes for repairs on account of leaks and shut off the water, and cut off such pipes as may be directed, of premises on which the water-rent has not been paid; to keep an account of all new pipes laid, and repairs made, and all material used for the same, under his charge; shall have charge of the pipe-yards and repair shop, and attend to the receipt of all new pipes and fixtures that may be delivered by contract or otherwise, and see that a proper stock of articles, to guard against accidents, shall be kept on hand, and report to the chief of the department any deficiency that may exist therein; to report at such times as may be required, all work and labor performed, and materials required for new work, make out the time list of all the men employed under him, shall attend to the check of all undue waste of water from leaks, carelessness or other causes, and report any infringement of the ordinances provided for that purpose to the chief of the department, and such other duties as may be assigned to them by the Chief Engineer.

Section 7. There shall be three engine-men for the works at Fairmount: two engineers for each of the steam water-works, and as many firemen and watchmen at the reservoirs as may be necessary for the proper management thereof, which said officers shall perform such duties, and at such times, as the Chief Engineer may direct.

Section 8. There shall be in this department:

First—A Register of Water Rents,
Second—One General Clerk,
Third—Three Permit Clerks,
Fourth—Four Inspectors,
Fifth—One Messenger.

Section 9. It shall be the duty of the Register to make all assessments of water-rents in manufacturing and other establishments where large quantities are used, to receive all water-rents, and make return of the amount collected to the Controller, and pay the same to the City Treasurer, daily; he shall give bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars for the faithful performance of his duty.

Section 10. He shall make out and issue the bills to the water tenants, which shall be served on the premises before the first day of February in every year, each one of which shall contain in it a notice that if the amount is not paid within ninety days after its delivery, the pipes supplying the premises will be disconnected from the main; and he shall furnish the Chief Engineer with a list of such tenants as have not paid their water rents, so that he may cause the water to be stopped from the premises.

Section 11. He shall superintend the issuing of all permits for water, receiving the water rents therefor, and paying the amount to the City Treasurer; to register the same by wards, and all water-rents registered to date, to be re-arranged by wards, if not already done; prepare the duplicates for 1855, and have them ready by the first Monday of January next, and annually the same day thereafter, and to report to the Controller on or before the first Monday of January in every year, the amount of the duplicates of water rent for said year.

Section 12. The General Clerk shall prepare and copy such papers appertaining to this department as may be directed by the Register, and shall generally perform such other duties connected therewith, as may be assigned him by the Chief Engineer.

Section 13. The Permit Clerks shall attend to their respective sub-offices, issue all permits under the supervision of the Register, and make return to him of all permits issued, and moneys received. They shall keep in a book to be provided for that purpose, an account of all materials received at their respective offices, under the direction of the Purveyor, and attend to such other duties as the Chief Engineer and Register may direct.

Section 14. The Inspectors shall examine all premises where water is introduced, and return to the Register as often as may be necessary, an account of all connections and openings on the premises and their uses, such as the number of hydrants, baths, water-closets, fountains, &c., and the rate of charge as fixed by the Councils or their committee, to distribute the water rent bills and notices, to examine and report cases of fraudulent use of water and abuse of permits, and other duties in their district, that may be assigned to them by the Chief and Register.

Section 15. The Messenger shall perform such duties as the Chief Engineer may direct.

Section 16. The annual salaries of the officers in this department shall be as follows, payable monthly:

The Chief Engineer.....	\$2500
Register.....	2000
Water Purveyors..... each	800
Engine Men and Engineers.....	800 and house rent.
Water Inspectors.....	700
Watchmen at Reservoirs.....	600
General Clerk.....	1100
Permit Clerks.....	900
Messenger.....	600

Section 17. The officers herein provided for to be nominated by the Chief Engineer, and by and with the advice and consent of the Select Councils, appointed to the offices herein mentioned, shall be removed at the pleasure of the party nominating, and upon such removal or vacancy occurring by death, resignation or otherwise, a nomination shall be made to supply such vacancy as in the case of an original appointment.

Section 18. The Joint Standing Committee of Councils on water, shall have supervision over all the transactions and operations of the Chief Engineer, and other officers and employees in this department, and it shall be the duty of the Chief Engineer to submit all plans, constructions, estimates, contracts and bills for materials furnished and work and labor done to the Committee, for their supervision before any action shall be taken thereon.

Mr. Cornman then moved to insert \$2,500 instead of \$3,000.

Mr. C. spoke very forcibly against \$3000, and against the establishment of such an office; that there was no earthly use for him; that he (Mr. C.) had interrogated the members of the committee as to the necessity of such an office, only the early reply he received was, that the Consolidation Act required it.

The yeas and nays being taken on the \$2500, it was adopted by the following vote:—

Yeas—Messrs. Caldwell, Cornman, Hutchinson, N. L. Keyser, Kline, Marselis, Pratt, Sandgran, Selby, Stokes, Verree, President—11.

Nays—Messrs. Bullock, Hinman, Jones, P. A. Keyser, Knorr, Wm. S. Smith, Waterman—7.

The other sections were adopted, and the bill, as passed finally a third reading, is as follows:—

An Ordinance Organizing the Department for supplying the City with Water.

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Section 2. The head of this Department shall be called Chief Engineer of the Water Works; he shall have charge and care of the water works of the City of Philadelphia, including mill-houses, steam-engine houses and their machinery, the reservoirs, pipes, mains, dams, fire-plugs, property, and fixtures of every kind connected with the same; he shall exercise general control and oversight over all the officers connected therewith, and assign and direct their duties so as to carry on the details of the works; he shall attend to the direction of all new works, now or hereafter to be constructed.

Section 3. He shall take immediate measures for the repair of any damage which may happen to the machinery or fixtures connected therewith.

Section 4. He shall make an annual report to Councils of the condition of the works under his care, and if any, and what extensions are necessary.

Section 5. He shall prepare all plans of construction, make all necessary estimates connected with the works, whether for construction or repairs, certify all accounts, bills and contracts for materials purchased, or labor performed under his direction; shall notify Councils or their Committee, of all breaches of contract, and supervise and arrange all contracts for labor to be performed, or materials to be purchased, and for the purchase or laying down of such mains, pipes and fixtures, as may from time to time be directed by Councils.

Section 6. In this department shall be four Water Purveyors. The Water Purveyors to have immediate charge of all the mains, pipes, stop-cocks, fire-plugs, and other fixtures appertaining to the distribution of water through the City, and to personally attend to the laying of new pipes as well as the repairs of the pipes, fire-plugs, and other fixtures that may require it; to attend to the drilling of the pipes for making attachment, shutting off the pipes for repairs on account of leaks and shut off the water, and cut off such pipes as may be directed, of premises on which the water-rent has not been paid; to keep an account of all new pipes laid, and repairs made, and all materials used for the same, under his charge; shall have charge of the pipe-yards and repair shop, and attend to the receipt of all new pipes and fixtures that may be delivered by contract or otherwise, and see that a proper stock of articles, to guard against accidents, shall be kept on hand, and report to the chief of the department any deficiency that may exist therein; to report at such times as may be required, all the work and labor performed, and materials required for new work, make out the time list of all the men employed under him, shall attend to the check of all undue waste of water from leak, carelessness, or other causes, and report any infringement of the ordinances provided for that purpose, to the chief of the department, and such other duties as may be assigned to them by the Chief Engineer.

Section 7. There shall be three engine-men for the works at Fairmount: two engineers for each of the steam water-works, and as many firemen and watchmen at the reservoirs as may be necessary for the proper management thereof, which said officers shall perform such duties, and at such times, as the Chief Engineer may direct.

Section 8. There shall be in this department:—First—A Register of Water Rents; Second—1 General Clerk; Third—Permit Clerks; Fourth—4 Inspectors; Fifth—1 Messenger.

Section 9. It shall be the duty of the Register to make all assessments of water rents in manufacturing and other establishments where large quantities are used, to receive all water rents, and make return of the amount collected to the Controller, and pay the same to the City Treasurer, daily; he shall give bond in the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars, for the faithful performance of his duty.

Section 10. He shall make out and issue the bills to the water tenants, which shall be served on the premises before the first day of February in every year, each one of which shall contain in it a notice that if the amount is not paid within ninety days after its delivery, the pipes supplying the premises will be disconnected from the main; and he shall furnish the Chief Engineer with a list of such tenants as have not paid their water rents, so that he may cause the water to be stopped from the premises.

Section 11. He shall superintend the issuing of all permits for water, receiving the fractional water rents therefor, and paying the amount to the City Treasurer; to register the same by wards, and all water-rents registered to date, to be re-arranged by wards, if not already done; prepare the duplicates for 1855, and have them ready by the first Monday of January next, and annually the same day thereafter, and to report to the Controller on or before the first Monday of January in every year, the amount of the duplicates of water-rents for said year.

Section 12. The General Clerk shall prepare and copy such papers appertaining to this department as may be directed by the Register, and shall generally perform such other duties connected therewith, as may be assigned him by the Chief Engineer.

Section 13. The Permit Clerks shall attend to their respective sub-offices, issue all permits under the supervision of the Register, and make return to him of all permits issued, and moneys received. They shall keep in a book to be provided for that purpose, an account of all materials received at their respective offices, under the direction of the Purveyor, and attend to such other duties as the Chief Engineer and Register may direct.

Section 14. The Inspectors to examine all premises where water is introduced, and return to the Register as often as may be necessary, an account of all connections and openings on the premises and their uses, such as the number of hydrants, baths, water-closets, fountains, &c., and the rate of charge as fixed by the Councils or their committee, to distribute the water rent bills and notices, to examine and report cases of fraudulent use of water and abuse of permits, and other duties in their district, that may be assigned to them by the Chief and Register.

Section 15. The Messenger shall perform such duties as the Chief Engineer may direct.

Section 16. The Annual Salaries of the Officers in this department, shall be as follows: payable monthly:—The Chief Engineer, \$2500; Register, \$2000; Water Purveyors, each \$800; Engine-men and Engineers, each \$800 and house rent; Water Inspectors, each \$700; Watchmen at Reservoir, each \$600; General Clerk, \$1100; Permit Clerks, each \$900; Messenger, \$600.

Section 17. The officers herein provided for to be nominated by the Chief Engineer, and by and with the advice and consent of the Select Councils, appointed to the offices herein mentioned, shall be removed at the pleasure of the party nominating, and upon such removal or vacancy occurring by death, resignation or otherwise, a nomination shall be made to supply such vacancy as in the case of an original appointment.

Section 18. The Joint Standing Committee on Water shall have supervision over all transactions and operations of the Chief Engineer, other officers and employees in this department, and it shall be the duty of the Chief Engineer to submit all plans, constructions, contracts, and bills for materials furnished, and work and labor done, to the Committee, for their supervision, before any action shall be taken thereon.

THE COST OF GAS IN VARIOUS CITIES.—A correspondent of the Washington Intelligencer gives the following as the cost of gas to private consumers in forty-two of the largest cities of the United States:—

Boston, \$3 per 1000 cubic feet;	Hartford, 3 50;
New Haven, 4;	Providence, 3 50;
New York, 3;	Brooklyn, \$3 50;
Albany, 4;	Troy, 4;
Rochester, 3 50;	Buffalo, 3 50;
Auburn (rosin), 7;	Schenectady, 4;
Syracuse, 4;	Newark, 3 50;
Patterson, 4;	Philadelphia "City Works," 2 25;
Northern Liberties, 3 50;	Spring Garden, 3 50;
Moyamensing, 3 50;	Reading, 3 50;
Lancaster, 4;	Baltimore, 3;
Charleston, 4;	Savannah, 3;
New Orleans, 5;	Galveston, 5;
Mobile, 5;	Nashville, 4;
Louisville, 3 50;	Cincinnati, 3 50;
Indianapolis, 3 75;	Chicago, 3 50;
Milwaukee, 3 50;	St. Louis, 3 50;
Lexington, Ky., 4;	Cleveland, 3 50;
Springfield, 5;	Dayton, 4;
Columbus, 3 50;	Wheeling, 3 50;
San Francisco, 10—being an average of \$3 97, or 17 cents per 1000 more than the cost of gas to private consumers in Washington city, which is \$9 80, and 47 cents more than is paid by the government, the city hotels, &c.	

The company in Washington have thirty miles of street mains in the ground, and an annual average consumption of 944,000 cubic feet of gas per mile; in Baltimore the average is 1,648,000 cubic feet for each mile of pipe; in Philadelphia it is 2,083,000 cubic feet; in New York, 1,765,000; in Boston, 2,700,000; in Albany, 2,100,000; in Brooklyn, 1,830,000; in St. Louis, 1,718,000; in Charleston, 1,946,000, &c.

The Cold Weather.—The weather on Tuesday night and yesterday morning was intensely cold, and the sufferings of the poor have been great. The thermometer at daybreak yesterday morning was lower than at the same time for many years past. It stood at McCallister's as follows:

6 1/2 o'clock, 6 degrees below zero.
9 " " 3 1/2 " " " " " " " "
10 " " 2 1/2 " " " " " " " "
11 " " 1 1/2 " " " " " " " "
12 " " 1 " " " " " " " "

The lowest at noon for 32 years.

The Delaware opposite the city was closed a portion of the time, but the ferry boats succeeded in forcing their way through it.