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Mr. Roberts moved that a Special Committee be appointed to investigate the charges made by Mr. Hagner against Mr. Ogden, and report to Council as early as possible.

Mr. Mott moved to lay the resolution on the table. No quorum voting the resolution was lost. Mr. Cornman spoke at length upon the subject. He thought the gentleman erred when he got one party to beat the bush, and the other to stand by and catch the animals as they came out. It reminded him of a Southerner who posted his slave at a corn break, gun in hand, with instructions to shoot the buck as he came out, while he, in the meantime would beat the "break." Suddenly the buck darted from his ambush, when, instead of shooting the animal as instructed, the slave dropped his gun and stared at his master with perfect astonishment. In reply to an inquiry why he did not shoot the buck, the negro replied, "Why, lor' massa, he jumped so high, I thought he'd kill himself in de fall."

This Mr. Cornman took to be just the position of Mr. Hagner—that he had certainly jumped so high, that on falling he could not possibly escape with his life.

Mr. Roberts hoped that no attempt would be made to smother this matter. He thought that Councils could not be too careful in examining the transactions of the different Departments. He considered the communication as properly belonging to the Committee, and hoped that it might be received by them.

Mr. Ashton stated at length the origin of these charges—first, the circulation of anonymous letters, and, secondly, the accusation made upon the floor of the Chamber. The matter had been considered by the Committee appointed for the purpose, and they could find no ground for such accusations. He hoped that the matter would not be pressed.

Mr. Beideman thought that there was nothing in the statement to base an investigation upon.

Mr. Cuyler held that the resolution was calculated to do injustice to a committee of their own body, and also to the character of a valuable officer. He would not cast a vote in favor of this resolution, unless assured of the veracity of the charges. He thought it unjust to the Committee, because the resolutions touched the veracity and competency of the committee who had investigated the charges. It was unjust to the officer, because he had once stood a fair and impartial investigation—had published in the daily newspapers for the appearance of any individual who could substantiate the charges—and had done everything in his power to further the investigation of the same.

Mr. Gamble had come to the conclusion of voting against the resolution offered by the gentleman of the Tenth Ward, because the charges, which it desires to have investigated by the Finance Committee, were investigated by the Committee on Water Works, which Committee reported that they had not been sustained. Some two weeks ago, while these charges were under consideration, said Mr. G., I opposed going into an election for Chief Engineer of the Water Works, and voted to postpone the same for two weeks. That time has now elapsed, and to-day we are to elect the head of the Water Department, and I am prepared to vote on that question in the Convention that will meet this afternoon, but if this resolution passes, I would not be willing to vote for a gentleman against whom such charges are pending. The report of the Committee on Water Works shall govern me in this matter, hence I shall vote against the resolution, believing Mr. Ogden innocent, because a competent, honest, reliable and intelligent Committee have not sustained the charges made against him.

Mr. Cornman again spoke at length upon the charges, and was answered in turn by Mr. Hagner. That gentleman hoped Mr. Cornman would do him the justice to state that nearly all the charges contained in the document had been made before the Committee, when they advertised for the forthcoming of any individual who could substantiate the same. That they were not the offsprings of afterthought, but made at the time.

Mr. Schofield doubted the right of any individual to rise in Council and make charges against any governmental chamber, when the same had been stated under oath before a Committee, who had acquitted that officer of the charge made against him.

The discussion was continued at length by Messrs. Taylor, Williams, and others, when Mr. Ashton withdrew his motion, and the vote was taken upon the resolution of Mr. Roberts, with the following amendment:—"That the member of the Fifteenth Ward be requested to furnish the Committee with a copy of the said communication."

The question being taken upon adoption, the resolution was lost by a vote of 3 yeas to 13 nays. The hour having arrived for meeting in Joint Convention, the members proceeded to the other chamber.

On re-assembling, a number of ordinances and resolutions from Common Council were appropriately disposed of.

Mr. Cornman offered a resolution, that the Register of Water be authorized to close his office, from the time of the passage of the resolution, to the 1st of September next at 1 o'clock P. M.

Mr. Roberts desired to understand the object of the resolution.

Mr. Cornman stated that the duties of the office were very onerous, and that the clerks needed some relaxation. This vacation will allow men to enjoy the companionship of their sweethearts, wives and babies.

Mr. Roberts moved its reference to the Committee on Water. Not agreed to. The question was taken on the resolution, and it was adopted.

A resolution from Common Council relative to the salaries of public officers, induced a very lengthy debate, which was concluded by a motion to refer it to the Committee on Water. Adjourned.

Schedule of payments made by Frederick Graf, Chief Engineer of the Water Works, for 1856:— On February 16th, rent of Wharf and Dwelling, \$100-00 Rent of Lot of north of Reservoir, 15-00 " " south " 12 50 Shifting Fire Plug, " 24-57 April 11, Rent of Lots, " 33-50 April 26, Use of Party Wall, " 93-62 May 31, Rent of Wharf and Dwelling, " 57 09 June 25, sale of Old Material, " 14-47 July 2, Rent of Wharf, " 100-00 July 5, Rent of Lot, " 15-00

It has also been alleged, that there is no Ordinance requiring these receipts to be paid into the treasury at any particular period. I look upon this as a miserable subterfuge. No public officer has the legal or the moral right to withhold from the treasury its dues one moment longer than he has a reasonable and convenient time to pay it.

Besides, it is in open violation of the 49th section of the Consolidation Act, (Digest, page 52,) as follows:—

"That every officer or agent receiving moneys for the city, and payable to the City Treasurer, * * * shall be required to make return to the City Controller once in every week, * * * and immediately upon making such return, to pay the amount in his hands to the City Treasurer."

My third charge was as follows:—"That the Chief Engineer has appointed Christopher Mason at a salary of \$1080 per annum—\$90 per month—to an office—"Superintendent of Repairs"—unknown to, and not established or provided for by any law or ordinance; and that the said Mason has received the salary up to June, 1857."

In answer to the inquiries on this subject, the Controller furnishes the following statements:— Amount paid Christopher Mason for services rendered in the years 1856 and 1857:—

Dec. 18, 1856.—C. Mason superintending repairs to Fairmount Dam, 66 days, \$168 March 14, 1857.—C. Mason superintending repairs at Fairmount Works, 2 months, from Jan. 1 to March 1, 180 April 3.—C. Mason superintending repairs at Fairmount Works and Basin, from March 1 to April 1, 90 May 1.—C. Mason superintendent of repairs at Fairmount Dam and Basin, from April 1 to May 1, 90 June 5.—C. Mason superintending repairs to Dam and Fareby, from May 1 to June 1, 90 Total, \$618

Regarding "refused bills" referred to in the 4th item of the Resolution, I have to note one other bill presented for audit by Christopher Mason in the month of March last, for one month as superintending repairs, services rendered in the month of December, 1856, on which bill, as no provision was made in the ordinance of March 6th, making appropriation to the Water Department, for its payment, no action was taken thereon, and it was returned to Mr. Mason with such explanation.

In addition to the above, and in answer to an inquiry on another point, the Controller gives an extract from a communication made by him to the Chief Engineer as follows:

PHILADELPHIA, July 1st, 1857. SAMUEL OGDEN, Esq., Chief Engineer of the Water Department. Dear Sir: * * * I also return the bill of C. Mason, for one month's salary, superintending repairs to Forebay and dam at Fairmount, from June 1st to July 1st, 1857, at ninety dollars per month, the approval of which must, for the present, be suspended. My previous approval of similar bills for several members of the City Council, including some members of the Finance Committee, and the authority on your part to create such an office without express provision of law is much questioned, and by some of said members most positively denied.

Being thus admonished, I must decline approving this or any similar bill, until the existing authority for the creation and employment of such an officer is fully established, or, in the absence of such authority at present existing, due provision is made by law therefor.

Very respectfully, your obt. servant, STEPHEN TAYLOR, City Controller.

I have, sir, examined the Ordinance organizing the Water Department, and can find no authority for the appointment of such an officer as Superintendent of Repairs; on the contrary, it seems to me clear, that the Chief Engineer, and his four purveyors, are the persons provided to perform that duty.

These are some of the facts on which I based my charges, and I respectfully ask my friend on the left (Mr. Cuyler) if he will pronounce them untrue on the report of a Committee or any one else. I have but one more remark to make, which will be understood by all the members of Council last year. At the close of 1856 we were startled when informed that there was a deficit in the Water Department of over \$2000. It was much talked of at the time, and finally Councils, to censure, and show their disapprobation of such a state of things, placed the following Section in the Annual Appropriation bill. It will be found on the Ordinance File, page 59.

Section 8. That the further sum of \$225-12 be, and the same be hereby appropriated, to pay the following debts contracted by the department for supplying the city with water, over and above the appropriation for the year 1856, and without authority of law or ordinance."

From my observation and examination of the accounts of the Water Department, if the city escapes this year with no greater deficiency than \$9000, I shall be agreeably surprised.

Mr. Roberts said that he was absent from the city at the time the resolution "whitewashing" the Chief Engineer of the Water Works passed. In view of the serious nature of the charges made by Mr. Hagner, he would move a suspension of the rules, for the purpose of referring the matter to the Committee on Finance. The motion to suspend the rules was not agreed to.

PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCILS. Reported for the Pennsylvania Inquirer.

A stated meeting of City Councils was held yesterday afternoon, at which the following business was transacted:— 95-1

SELECT COUNCIL.

Petitions and communications were presented, read and referred, as follows:— A message was received from the Mayor, notifying the chamber that he had approved and signed certain ordinances and resolutions.

Mr. Taylor presented a petition for the laying of iron pipes in Culbert street. Referred to the Committee on Water.

Also, a remonstrance against the laying of water pipes in this street. Likewise referred.

Mr. Ashton presented a petition from the officers of the Moyamensing Hose Company, asking that this Company be admitted into the Fire Department. Referred to the Committee on Trusts and Fire Department.

Mr. Bradford presented a petition for the erection of a bridge across the Schuylkill, at Spruce street, which was referred to the Committee on Surveys and Regulations.

Mr. Marsalis presented a remonstrance from several pawnbrokers, against the passage of an ordinance to license and regulate Pawnbrokers, which was referred to the Committee on Law.

Mr. Hegner asked leave to make a statement to the Chamber.

On motion of Mr. Roberts, permission was given, when he said:—

Mr. President:—On Thursday last, I made three distinct charges against the Chief Engineer of the Water Works. It is due to the body, to the public—the Chief Engineer and myself, that I should make known the evidence upon which I based these charges. The first charge was in these words:—"That Samuel Ogden, Chief Engineer of the Water Works, received various sums of money on account of the city, from July to December, 1856, amounting to over \$500, not one dollar of which was paid into the treasury until last month, June 22d, 1857, since the agitation of this subject began."

I have here, sir, an official report from the City Controller, July 14th, 1857, made in answer to a resolution of inquiry adopted by the Finance Committee, on my motion and at my request. The answer to the inquiry on this point is as follows:—

"The following are the items of receipts of Mr. Samuel Ogden, Chief Engineer of the Water Works, being the receipts of 1856, and paid to the City Treasurer, June 22d, 1857:—

July 5, 1856—Rent of lot north of reservoir, \$15-00 " 16, " do south do 12 50 " 23, " —Shifting fire plug, 7-91 Oct. 1, " —Rent of lot south of reservoir, 12 50 " " —do north do 15-00 Dec. 1, " —Sale of old iron, 370 00 " " —Sale of old brass, 91-00

This statement shows the dates on which the Enquirer received these moneys, from July the 5th to December 1856, and the date of their payment into the Treasury, June 22d, 1857. On the 11th of June last, I handed to the Water Committee an anonymous letter I had received a day or two previous, after having first satisfied myself, by examinations at the Controller's Office, of the truth of some of the allegations contained in it. On the 18th of June, (see Journal of Select Council, page 86,) a communication was presented from Mr. Ogden, asking an investigation, which was referred to the Water Committee, and not until four days after that, the 22d of June, and after the subject had gone to the Committee for investigation, was this money received in 1856, paid into the Treasury.

My second charge was—That the Chief Engineer had received various sums of money on account of the city, since the 1st of January, 1857, not one dollar of which had been paid into the Treasury.

There are certain properties belonging to the city, the rents of which are payable quarterly to the Chief Engineer; there is also a wharf on the Schuylkill, at Coates street, rented to Messrs. Bender & Wright, at \$200 per annum, payable semi-annually; the last payment to the Treasury for the rent of this wharf, was by Mr. Graf, July 20, 1856. I addressed a note to the tenants, and received the following reply:—

O. V. Hagner, Sir:—I paid for Bender & Wright, at the office of the Water Department, for rent of the Coates street Wharf, \$100, on the 17th of January last, and \$100 on the 3th July. Respectfully, yours, CALLE S. WRIGHT, July 14, 1857.

I also received from the tenant of another property the following certificate:—

"I hereby certify that I have made three quarterly payments of rent for the Lot North side of Reservoir since the 1st of January, as follows:—

January 1, " \$15-00 April 7, " " 15-00 July 7, " " 15-00

"As per receipts, of which the following are copies, &c. JOHN KIBHL."

I made no further inquiries as to other receipts, these being sufficient for my purpose. In answer to the interrogatory on the subject, the Controller replies:—

"From the accounts rendered by the City Treasurer and the accounts rendered in this Department, there are no credits to the Chief Engineer of the Water Department, of receipts by him on account of the year 1857."

It has been alleged that the present Engineer pursued the same course as his predecessor in making these payments. In answer to an inquiry on this subject the Controller furnishes the following statement, by which it appears that seven different payments were made to the Treasurer, during the first six months of the year 1856, by Mr. Graf, the former Chief Engineer.