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EVENING BULLETIN.

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1856.

DOINGS OF CITY COUNCILS.

HIGHLY INTERESTING DEBATE ON THE MOY-AMENSING HOSE COMPANY.

130-1
Consideration of the Ordinance making an Appropriation to the School Controllers.

A LONG TALK—FUN IN THE SELECT CHAMBER.

The regular stated meeting of City Councils was held yesterday afternoon. The following business was transacted:

SELECT BRANCH.

Communications and petitions were presented as follows: Communications from the Board of Health, asking for copies of the Digest of the Laws of the city; communications from Mr. John McCarthy, Chief Commissioner of Highways elect, containing names of sureties; petition for water pipes in 22d and 23d streets, between Pine and Lombard streets; a petition for a better supply of water in the 20th Ward.

A motion was made to refer the communication to the Committee on Water of Select Council.

Mr. Verree thought it was time some decided action was taken concerning this matter of committees. He thought it was a very informal proceeding to refer matters to a Standing Committee that has no real existence, or to what is best but a portion of a Committee. He thought an ordinance should be prepared, either yielding the point in dispute to Common Council or devising some means of overcoming the difficulty.

The following communication was read, and on motion referred to the Committees on Water:

To the President and Members of the Select and Common Councils of the city of Philadelphia:

GENTLEMEN—I consider it my duty to communicate several matters which experience has taught me should have early attention, and which, had my official connection with the city continued, would have been presented to your notice much more in detail. I perhaps step beyond the proper borders by reference to matters which may be considered as the duty of another; but my great interest in the works, and the vital importance of the subject, must be my excuse for troubling you with the following communication:

In my report made to Councils, April 19, 1855, (see Appendix to Journal of Select Council, in the volume from January 4th to May 7th, 1855, No. 42, page 340.) will be found the following:

"A slight settlement however, has been noticed in a part of the Fairmount Dam, near the eastern stone pier, where the water is the deepest. This settlement has taken place very gradually, indeed, and has been going on since its erection. It amounts to but a few inches, and no fear of failure is anticipated, as such settlement is probably not more than might be expected to take place when the large mass of timber at this point is considered, and when we remember that, beside its own weight, it has been subjected to the enormous pressure of nearly eleven feet in depth of water upon it. The old cribs, moreover, were not so well put together as they might have been, and some stone may have escaped from the front of the work. As early as the stage of the water in the river will permit, an examination, as complete as it is possible to make, will be instituted, and should it be found necessary, such repairs as will then suggest themselves will be made."

And again, in my report to Councils, made January 17th, 1856, this remark occurs: "By the last report it will be seen that some repairs were then contemplated to the dam; upon further examination, it was not deemed necessary to make them. The work will, however, be carefully examined from time to time, and should there be occasion an appropriation for the object will be asked."

I have accordingly kept careful watch upon the settlement mentioned in my first report, and have satisfied myself that it is slowly increasing. The quantity of water running over the dam has not, within a very few days, admitted of as thorough an examination as I desired to make of the foundation of the dam, which, at that point, is from fifteen to nineteen feet below the surface of the water. I had, however, made arrangements for doing this effectually; and if deficiency was found at the point (which there is reason to apprehend) I had determined to ask an appropriation for effecting a permanent repair.

I take the liberty to suggest that a close and rigid examination be made, whilst the water is sufficiently low for the purpose; as any failure of the dam must result in sad disaster to the city.

Councils are aware that suit was instituted against the Schuylkill Navigation Company, and defended by the City in connection with that Company, for an alleged raising of the dam by means of temporary strips of timber placed upon it. Considerable damages were finally awarded to the parties interested, which have been paid by the Navigation Company; it is necessary that a permanent structure should be substituted for, and of the same height as these temporary strips.

A communication upon this subject will doubtless be addressed to Councils by the Navigation Company in a few days.

I take the liberty further to state that there is urgent necessity for an early enlargement of all parts of the Waterworks now supplying the late Districts of Spring Garden, Northern Liberties, and Penna, upon a comprehensive scale commensurate with the very rapidly increasing demand for water, the magnitude of our city, and such as the convenience and safety of the residents of that part of Philadelphia demands.

The Delaware, as well as Fairmount Works, also require much increase.

All of which is respectfully submitted by
July 10, 1856. FREDERICK GRAFF.

A communication was received from the City Controller, containing the semi-annual statement of the affairs of the department, from Jan. 1st to June 30th; communication from the City Treasurer, stating the amount of city loans purchased since the last report—all of which