



NORTHEAST CORNER OF THIRD AND CHESTNUT STREETS.



PENN BUILDING.

PENN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY'S OFFICE.

City Expenditures.

The existing City Government will soon be superseded, and, as many of the present incumbents are before the people for re-election, it behooves those citizens who feel that they have some interest in the community, to scan the actions of their representatives. The party in power has mismanaged the public affairs with a scandalous recklessness which far exceeds all previous experience, and its representatives in the Municipal Legislature have wasted the public funds with a prodigality which is unprecedented. It is well that these matters should be considered seriously; and we therefore devote some space to-day to a statement of the vast sums of money already expended, with some estimate of what is to be yet laid out before the choice of new Councils is made.

Up to the 29th of December, 1854, there were warrants countersigned by the Controller, on appropriations made by Councils, for the sum of.....	\$2,006,076 42
Dec. 29. Appropriations to pay interest on city debt due in January and July	965,908 10
To pay principal of such debt due in 1855.....	260,228 00
1855.	
Jan. 4. House of Refuge, on account of annual appropriation of \$13,000.....	5,000 00
11. Board of Health for 1854.....	4,323 87
City Commissioners.....	16,914 70
13. Spring Garden Gas Works.....	16,522 33
Wills Hospital.....	5,450 00
Police Department.....	45,387 33
Controllers of Public Schools, balance of 1854.....	135,279 94
Departments of Highways, Bridges, &c.....	24,106 00
Superintendent of Trusts.....	1,608 58
10. Guardians of Poor for 1854.....	12,612 65
18. Lighting City with Gas.....	58,823 04
Department supplying City with Water.....	4,665 04
20. Mrs. Catharine O. Callahan.....	1,250 00
Clerks of Councils.....	5,000 00
22. Departments of Highways.....	3,410 23
Fitting up of State House for Councils.....	13,500 00
In addition to appropriation.....	
Aug. 10, 1854.....	\$2,500 00
Oct. 28.....	3,500 00
Dec. 14.....	3,000 00
Making whole cost.....	\$9,000 00
24. Department of Receiver of Taxes.....	1,136 08
Department supplying City with Water.....	31,403 76
To pay certain claims.....	237,020 10
City Commissioners.....	2,354 14
Superintendent of Trusts.....	1,276 58
Northwestern Railroad Loan, 6 per cent.....	75,000 00
29. Trustees Ice Boat.....	75,000 00
Law Department.....	17,420 00
30. City Commissioners.....	16,055 60
Department of Receiver of Taxes, including \$4,950 for temporary clerks.....	17,225 00
Department of Highways, &c.....	17,131 66
Police Department.....	505,640 00
Certificates of Debt.....	100,000 00
Department of City Treasurer, including \$2700 for temporary clerks.....	18,050 00
For Sinking Fund.....	109,000 00
Feb. 6. Spring Garden Gas Works.....	35,554 13
Clerks of Councils.....	25,000 00
8. Guardians of Poor.....	205,482 00
Department of City Property.....	78,181 81
Board of Health.....	35,620 00
Department of Wharves and Landings.....	4,950 00
Lighting City with Gas, &c.....	12,591 22

Department of Highways for damages to Delaware avenue.....	10,914 00
Department of Highways, &c.....	54,825 90
Two Watchmen on Girard avenue at \$500 each.....	1,000 00
Feb. 15. To the Department of City Property for salary, repairs, improvements, &c.....	78,181 31
Board of Health.....	35,620 00
26. To the Police Department.....	8,309 24
Mar. 1. Grover Estate.....	1,822 05
To Controller's Department, salaries, &c.....	14,110 00
To Department of Market Houses.....	10,450 00
Girard Estates.....	58,810 00
To the City Commissioners.....	158,410 55
Controllers of Public Schools.....	456,883 00
8. To the Water Department.....	210,685 00
10. To Jacob W. Colladay for materials and labor in the Common Pleas Court room and cellar.....	556 39
12. To pay certain claims.....	100,000 00
13. For labor at S. G. Gas Works.....	4,242 01
To Department Bridges, Highways, Sewers, &c.....	719,156 00
do. do. do.....	5,000 00
For the Gunner's Run Bridge, Vaccine Physicians, &c.....	1,000 00
15. For Detection and Trial of Criminals.....	500 00
20. The Widow of John Henderson, a Police Officer.....	500 00
	\$7,129,498 74

In addition to the above, the following appropriations have been proposed, and the ordinances directing their payment are in different stages of progress in the Councils, and some of them are in the Mayor's hands. They will probably all be sanctioned:

To pay instalments to Northwestern Railroad Company.....	\$600,000 00
To John M. Riley, Clerk of Common Council, gratuity in addition to his regular salary.....	300 00
To H. W. Steel, Assistant do. do.....	300 00
To J. Q. Adams, do. do.....	300 00
Census of the City.....	14,000 00
House of Refuge.....	15,000 00
Police Huts.....	1,750 00
Wm. Mullen, fine refunded and costs.....	6 56
Northern Home for Friendless Children.....	2,000 00
Rosine Association.....	1,500 00
Northern Home.....	1,000 00
City Commissioners.....	1,000 00
Highways, Bridges and sewers.....	11,000 00
do. do. do. to pay a certain claim.....	3,953 08
For opening Dickinson street, etc.....	2,656 00
Committee on Highways, Culverts, &c.....	25,275 25
Fire Alarm Telegraph.....	36,300 00
	\$716,340 89

This is the work of nine months, in which an expenditure of over seven millions eight hundred and forty-five thousand seven hundred dollars has been authorized by the present Councils, being nearly eight hundred and seventy-two thousand dollars a month. At the same ratio we may calculate that by the middle of May there will have been appropriated, for "the ordinary expenses" of the present city administration, more than nine millions of dollars. This is without presuming to estimate what scandalous jobs may be hurried through in the last moments of the existence of Councils, in order to satisfy the cravings of those members who may fear that they will never have an opportunity to plunder the public again.

These figures are startling, and, if they do not induce reflection among our citizens, the punishment of inattention will fall upon them in the shape of heavy burthens. In order to prevent such waste hereafter, men of different calibre from the majority of the members of the present Councils must be selected. We cannot expect that the opposition will, of course, nominate good men. Some of the Democratic nominations already made in a portion of the wards are very bad. Party politics should be thrown aside in considering this question, and voters should, with diligence and anxiety, inquire into the personal character of the nominees, without reference to the political principles they profess. In conducting our own affairs, the question ought not to be whether a man is a thorough-going party hack, but if he is honest and beyond temptation. Mere adventurers, and men who are needy disciples of political teachers, are not what our interests require. Such men generally consider the offices into which they wriggle as so many places designed for their special advancement and profit, where they may fatten until they are turned out.

Philadelphia can claim the credit of being the worst governed city in the world. Its expenditures are profuse and profligate; its legislation headlong and heedless, if nothing worse; and the burthens upon its citizens are heavy, oppressive, and daily increasing. The proceedings of Councils are marked by individual anxieties. Each member of the majority seems to have his own "pet snake," and the intentions of the Consolidation Act are frittered away and set at naught. Thus, while committees are forbidden to expend money, the public funds are appropriated to and expended almost exclusively by them. A committee reports an ordinance for a large amount, and forthwith it is adopted, no one caring or daring (we hardly know which) to say a word against it. What becomes of the money, the committee-men know, but the members of Council do not. Occasionally, the clerks of Council, paid officers, are entrusted with large sums of money to expend, and thus the provisions of the Consolidation Act are disregarded and set at defiance. If the citizens re-elect the present incumbents, it ought to be because municipal affairs have been satisfactorily conducted. Taxes, already extravagant and inordinately high, must be increased, for we have seen that the appropriations already made for the fiscal year largely exceed the amount to be received. Nor is this all! Councils have procured the pas-

sage of a law authorizing a loan without the formalities of notice required by the Consolidation Act, and without the checks and guards therein provided.

We wish to arouse the attention of citizens to the necessity of reform. Profligacy, recklessness and dishonesty in public agents, ever produce individual delinquency; and it is to be hoped that new men, not in the harness of Councils, men of integrity and character, will be selected, and that the beginning of reform and retrenchment will have commenced. It is not too soon to begin the canvass. The vast body of the city's stipendiaries, the eagerness of some of the Councilmen for re-election, and their apprehension of having their misdeeds detected and exposed by their successors, make them active and zealous electioneers. It depends on the thinking voters if such men shall succeed.

We shall have something more to say hereafter on the frightful state of our city affairs, particularly in reference to the number of useless officers now employed, and the extravagance of the salaries which are paid the favorites of the dominant administration.

CITY ITEMS.

NEW BUILDINGS.—During the past year there were erected in the City and the several Districts of the County, over three thousand new buildings of various kinds and dimensions. In the City proper there were five hundred and thirty-one, as follows, viz: 272 three story dwellings, 41 four story dwellings, 22 five story, 58 four story stores, 6 three story, 1 four story work shop, 1 four story soap house, 27 five story stores, 11 six story stores, 1 six story factory. Among them was one Bank house, four story bath house, five story printing office, four story engine house, two story synagogue, six story addition to a hotel, a one story Episcopal church.

In Spring Garden four hundred and seventy-three permits were issued for new buildings, but it is believed that six hundred buildings were erected. Of these 390 were three story dwellings.

In the Northern Liberties the number of new buildings, as appears from the records of the clerk, was one hundred and forty-four, of which 63 were three story dwellings, and six three story factories.

In Kensington four hundred and fifty-six permits were issued, but it is estimated that not less than six hundred new buildings were put up.

In Southwark two hundred and sixty-eight permits were issued, but it is estimated that three hundred buildings were erected.

In Moyamensing the number of permits were two hundred and twenty. The number of buildings however is computed at not less than two hundred and seventy-five.

In Penn District 219 were put up. In Richmond about the same number, and in the other portion of the county it may be safely estimated that a hundred were erected, making an aggregate three thousand and fifty new buildings.

In the borough of Frankford near eighty buildings were erected, about one half of which were frame, and nearly one quarter of stone.

[January 25, 1855]