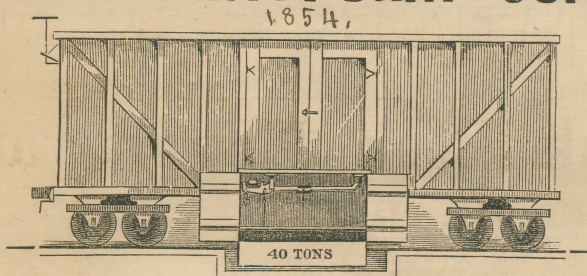


1857-  
**FAIRBANKS'**  
**PATENT PLATFORM SCALES,**  
1854.



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**THE COST OF SUPPORTING THE POOR**—Yesterday, in the Board of Guardians of the Poor, the Committee on Estimates submitted their estimate of the amount of money that would be necessary to support the paupers who are under the direct care of the city during next year. As the estimates are based upon an average of 2,300 paupers, the expenditures will probably exceed the amount named by the committee, as the numbers of paupers will doubtless be far above the usual average for some months.

The amount asked for by the Committee is \$276,427. The most important item is flour, of which 6,800 barrels will be required, at an aggregate cost of \$47,600. There will also be 17,000 pounds of corn meal wanted at \$340; the paupers will also need 10,000 lbs. of water crackers, which will add \$700 to the sum total for bread and bread, stuffs. A large quantity of potatoes is raised upon the farm at Blockley, but independent of these supplies 3,000 bushels of Mercers, at a cost of \$2,700, will be needed to feed the hungry paupers. In the way of meats we find 180,000 pounds of beef, 170,000 pounds of mutton, 20,000 pounds of salt shoulders, 2000 pounds of fresh pork, and 15,000 pounds of codfish. This mountain of meat and fish add about \$40,000 to the sum total of the estimates for the year.

To wash down this mass of edibles 9,000 pounds of tea and 30,000 pounds of coffee will be required. There is also an allowance of about \$4,000 to pay for 100 gallons of six dollar brandy, 600 gallons of wine, 1,500 gallons of whiskey, and 3,100 gallons of porter. These bibbles are intended for the sick, whether or not the sick will get them all we are unable to say. The solids and fluids we have enumerated are not the only articles of food and drink which must be purchased for the use of the paupers. There must also be 2,500 dozens of eggs, 8,000 gallons of molasses, 79,000 pounds of sugar, 40,000 pounds of rice, 20,000 pounds of butter, 150 sacks of salt, and numerous other et ceteras, among which are 10,000 pounds of tobacco at a cost of \$2,300.

The salaries of nurses, physicians, officers, &c., form an important item. For cooking purposes and for keeping the large family at Blockley comfortable through the winter it is estimated that 3,500 tons of coal and 400 cords of wood will be needed.

When the private contributions of citizens towards the support of the poor are added to the \$276,427 demanded by the Board of Guardians, rather a startling sum is presented.

See estimate p. 79 - Oct. 27-57-

**THE SEDGELEY PARK.**

After some considerable squabbling in the City Councils, in regard to the acceptance by the city of the splendid domain known as the Sedgeley estate, on the banks of the Schuylkill, to be converted into a Public Park for the use of our citizens forever, subject to mortgages upon the property for half the amount of its value, the Committee on City Property unanimously recommended that the estate be received, subject to the contingencies of the case.

From the report of the committee we find that Sedgeley Park, containing thirty-three acres, and adjoining Lemon Hill on the north, was presented to the city in the month of March, 1857, by citizens who voluntarily gave in cash \$60,000 towards its purchase, and then conveyed the premises, subject to the balance of the purchase money, (\$65,000,) as a free gift to the citizens of Philadelphia, to be used as a Park, in connection with Fairmount Park, for the health and enjoyment of all the people forever. In combination with the city grounds at Fairmount, which embrace twenty-four acres, Fairmount Park, which contains forty-five acres, and the grounds of the Spring Garden Water Works, which contain eight and a half acres of ground, the Sedgeley Park estate forms a Park upon the bank of the Schuylkill of one hundred and ten and a half acres, extending from Callowhill street on the south, (with the interruption of a small piece of wharf property at and adjacent to Coates street,) to a point more than

a mile northward of the dam. Independently of the remarkable natural adaptation of these beautiful grounds to the purposes of a noble Park, they constitute the bank of the Schuylkill, and their possession by the city insures the purity of the water in the Fairmount basin, whose border they constitute for a mile above the dam.

The importance of insuring the purity of the Schuylkill water, indeed, was the primary considerations which induced the donors to present this property to the city. The vast improvements and increase of population in that section of the city, would soon have converted the Sedgeley estate into building lots, and instead of a place of healthful recreation and umbrageous shade, the whole front of the Schuylkill above Fairmount to Columbia bridge, would, in a short time, have been built up, with the filth of the streets pouring into the beautiful stream, defiling it, and rendering it unfit for drinking or cooking purposes, and, as a matter of course, eventually requiring new Water Works to supply the city with wholesome water, at a cost, perhaps, of many millions of dollars.

Now, as the city expressly agreed, some months since, to take the Sedgeley property, subject to the balance of the purchase money, we cannot see how we can back out of our bargain. We cannot imagine anything more binding, legally, morally, or in honor, than that the city should sacredly protect and maintain, "for public use and enjoyment forever," the premises thus acquired.

This property is worth double what was paid for it. On several occasions \$100,000 had been declined for it, by its original owner, and probably would not have been released at all to city purposes, had not many of our most influential citizens exerted themselves to secure its especial endowment to the use of our people forever as a Public Park.

While we would give credit to our public servants for economy, we nevertheless deem it unwise to exercise a parsimony likely to tend to the disadvantage of the people in the end. The health and comfort of our citizens are paramount to the expenditure even of millions of dollars.

In New York they are now laying out a Park, containing seven hundred and seventy-six acres, at a cost of \$10,000,000. When finished, it will be unequalled by any Park in the world. It will be a great public blessing, and will pay immensely, in promoting the health of every man, woman and child in that great commercial emporium.

**THE OLDEST FIRE COMPANY.**—The dispute as to whether the Hand-in-Hand or the Hibernia is the oldest fire company brings upon the carpet another party, which claims to be still older than either of the two claimants for the precedence. A correspondent sends us the following communication, which sets forth some interesting facts in a pleasant strain:

Without wishing to in any way complicate the important question, as to whether the Hibernia or the Hand-in-Hand Engine Companies is the oldest existing company in the city, I should like to state that the "Fellowship Fire Company," founded in 1738, is still in existence in this city, and holds meetings regularly once a month, as it has done ever since its earliest days. There are now but three members left who meet together, all the others having one after the other gone to their last rest. The Rolls have been preserved, and could, no doubt, be published if any object was to be gained by so doing. The survivors are, of course, not in the habit of running with the machine in their old age, and indeed cannot be called an active organization, although an intensely respectable one. If these veterans should take it into their heads to elect new members, or to set up a "crab" and assert their rights as "Senior Members," there would be no necessity for the continuation of the discussion now being carried on. I think, however, there is no danger of their taking any such step, inasmuch as some years since they passed a by-law to the effect that if "any member was known to have been voluntarily present at a fire, he should at once be expelled." A law which has never been violated in a single instance.

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Oct. 25-57-

Oct. 20-57-