The New Orleans Bee.

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NEW ORLEANS DAILY BEE.

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TERMS OF THE BEE.

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TERMS—PER YEAR .... $[illegible]

NEW ORLEANS:

SUNDAY MORNING, SEPT. 3, 1871.

THE VARIOUS WATER WORKS' SCHEMES.

There are now three schemes on foot which relate to the City Water Works.

1. The Crescent City Company's scheme.

2. The New Orleans Water Works Company's scheme.

3. The plan of the City Council.

The first of these is the scheme which Mr. Bovee, the Secretary of State, claims to have been legalized by the failure of the Governor to return the bill to the legislative body where it originated, within the time allowed him for consideration by the constitution. Its details are not now at hand, but our recollection is that it had not a feature to recommend it, and that it contemplated simply a spoliation of the property of the inhabitants of New Orleans.

The second is the scheme presented to the City Council by the New Orleans Water Works Company, (lately incorporated,) of which Mr. Joseph Hernandez is the President. The following are the principal features of this plan: The Company propose to lease the Water Works from the city for 25 years at an annual rental of one hundred thousand dollars, the city being furnished with sufficient water for fire and street purposes, free of charge. The Company also agreed to construct new and improved works at Carrollton, and to lay down within 5 years from 1st of April, 1872, forty-five miles of main pipe. The Company to have the right to mortgage the works to the extent of two millions of dollars. There are other conditions in the proposed contract of lease, but we have stated the chief ones. Commenting on their scheme when first laid before the Council, we pointed out briefly the most obvious objections to it. These are palpable, and would insure its defeat before any honest legislative body. In the first place, it is not a lease at all, although an annual rental be stipulated. It has more of the features of a sale for the sum of two millions of dollars, payable in installments of one hundred thousand dollars yearly without security, because the lessees (so called) are to be empowered to mortgage the works to the extent of two millions of dollars. The probability, then, is that neither would the annual rent be paid nor would the property be restored to the city, for it is only the honor of the corporators that the city would have to rely upon, and in these times honor is but a slender security for the extinction of obligations much smaller than two millions of dollars. We marvel that any member of our City Council should be willing to listen for a moment to so bold a scheme. It has not a single advantage for the city. The extension of the works might or might not be executed. One thing, however, is certain, and that is, that the contract does not reserve to the city the right to enforce its execution unless the extension be not commenced prior to 1st April, 1872, in which event the lease is to terminate. But we do not regard this provision as furnishing adequate security to the city, because it may involve a law-suit, and with our courts as they are now constituted the result of such a contestation is more than problematical. A further objection to this proposition is that it seems to be the favorite of the Governor and his immediate entourage. At all events, those who are regarded as His Excellency's particular friends and agents in the City Council, have steadily voted against the adoption of the plan of Mr. Delassize.

The third scheme is the one which originated with Mr. Delassize, the Administrator of the Waterworks, in the City Council. It contemplates the continued ownership of the works by the city and their extension in the outskirts, the means of effecting which are to be obtained by means of an issue of bonds to the amount of two millions five hundred thousand dollars. The principal object of the author of this plan, who we presume, had the approval of Mayor Flanders in advance, was to head off the speculators of the Crescent City Company and the New Orleans Waterworks Company, and to place the property in such a predicament that all designs upon it would cease. By the adoption of this plan, the property would be mortgaged to secure the payment of the bonds, and the city authorities would still have the control and administration of the works.

At the present writing it is impossible to predict with any confidence the issue of the struggle over these works in the City Council. Mayor Flanders is doing all he can to prevent the property being taken out of the hands of the City Government. But the Council being almost equally divided on the question, its decision in favor of the city may depend, perhaps, on the firmness and fidelity of a single Administrator. By absenting himself or adopting some other means to favor the Governor, the Mayor's good intentions may be frustrated. There can be no doubt that bribes have been offered by some one to the Administrators to induce them to favor the proposition of the New Orleans Water Works Company.

A REQUIEM FOR LEE.—A little book bearing the above title has been laid upon our table by the author, Mrs. Laura S. Webb, a lady favorably known throughout the South as a writer. Mrs. Webb has received many encomiums from the press for her various productions among which we may mention "Heart Leaves," published by Lippincott & Co., of Philadelphia. The present composition is dedicated to the women of the South who will take care that the author shall receive proper encouragement and sympathy in these laudable literary efforts made to support her children. Mrs. Webb is the widow of an officer of the Confederate army who died from disease contracted in the service.

Her book including "A Requiem for Lee" can be had of any bookseller.

MESSRS. LAWRENCE BROTHERS.—This firm announce through our advertising columns that they have removed from Old Levee street, to No. 32 Tchoupitoulas street, which they regard as a more central location for their trade and nearer to their customers.

Messrs. Lawrence are the successors of the house of Lawrence & Hébrard, commission merchants and grocers, and dealers in plantation supplies and Louisiana rice. Their friends will always find them polite and prompt in their dealings and their goods fresh and of the best quality. Staple and fancy groceries, and wines and liquors are among the articles they keep regularly. We recommend our planting friends in the interior parishes to give Messrs. Lawrence a call when they visit New Orleans.

From Rome.

Mr. Thos. Layton has received from Rome a letter of 8th August, from His Eminence, Cardinal Barnabo, acknowledging receipt of the gift of 50,000 francs made to the Pope by the faithful in this Diocese. As soon as received, the Cardinal took the check to the Holy Father, and in handing it to him informed him of the sentiments expressed in Mr. Layton's communication.

His Holiness received the noble gift, the Cardinal writes, with heartfelt gratitude, evincing particular pleasure at the expressions of attachment and devotion that accompanied the offering.

The Cardinal's letter concludes:

"He graciously favors with his Apostolic benediction your most worthy Archbishop, yourself, and every one of the contributors; in fine, all the Clergy and Faithful of the Archdiocese; directing me at the same time, to thank, in his name, His Grace and yourself personally, and to express to both his sincere acknowledgments."

In England, [illegible] we have derived [illegible] honorable [illegible] the committee of the [illegible] Officials plunder the State with impunity before the eyes of the public, and if they should be indicted by a Grand Jury, the trial would be a waste of the [illegible]

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Captain Duncan, of the Algiers police, is proprietor of a coffeehouse below the Barracks where he entertains customers with the game of rondo. That being a game interdicted by law, a company of the Third District police invaded the place on Friday night, arrested the gamesters who were playing and seized the implements. Captain Duncan says he can't see why his little game should be broken up while so many big games are permitted elsewhere.

The Proposed Investigation of Bribery of the City Hall.—It is hard to see what good can come of the investigation, which is proposed to be held under the resolution offered by Mr. Ramick, at the meeting of the Council on Friday. Under that resolution, Messrs. Ramick, Lewis and Hardane have been appointed a committee to enquire who of the Administrators were corrupted [illegible] by [illegible] the water [illegible] Works Company. Parties concerned in receiving or giving bribes, unless, as in the case of Mr. Delassize, they are taken to be exposed by the receiver, will not voluntarily publish their own shame and, if they are not willing to do it, there is no power to make them do it. The committee cannot compel the attendance of a witness. If he does attend they cannot compel him to answer a single question, and if he does attend and does answer, although his testimony, from beginning to end, may be a web of falsehoods, no prosecution can lie against him for perjury. Members of the Council, except the Mayor, who, by virtue of his office is a Justice of the Peace, have no judicial power whatever and have no authority to administer an oath. The investigation ordered can, therefore, amount to little, if anything. Nor does it seem to have been designed as a serious measure for Mr. Ramick, who proposed the resolution, and whom the Mayor, according to parliamentary usage, appointed chairman of the committee, left the city immediately after, to be absent a month. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, it looks as if the resolution was intended to be a feint.

First District Court.—Saturday, Sept. 2.—Dominick Byrnes, indicted for manslaughter, charged to have been committed in killing Patrick Foley was arraigned and pleaded not guilty.

Samuel Ford, for obtaining money by false representations, from Mrs. Simpson, was sentenced to ten months in the Penitentiary.

John, alias Dick Ferdman, for stealing a silver watch, the property of William Richardson, was sentenced to ten months in the Penitentiary.

Mary Fallon, for stealing jewels, etc., valued at $50, from the residence of Mr. T. Chauvierre, No. 95 Chartres street, where she was employed as a servant, was sentenced to three months in the Parish Prison.

Grand Jury Report.—Annexed is the report of the Grand Jury made to the First District Court yesterday, at the close of their term:

GRAND JURY ROOM,
New Orleans, Sept. 2, 1871.

Hon. E. Abell, Judge First District Court.

Sir—At the close of its term your jury deems it both useless and unnecessary to follow the course of the many preceding Grand Juries of commenting at length on the law's delay and defeat, the increase of crime, etc., or of dwelling on recommendations touching the various positive and charitable institutions.

It is clear that the criminal code of our State is defective and it is also clear that, such as it is, it is equally as defectively enforced.

That crime should therefore go unpunished and, as a consequence, increase is not a matter to challenge special wonder.

Your jury has given much time and attention to the investigation of charges bearing upon bribery and corruption in office, but the nonexistence of any law on the subject, defeated its efforts in this direction, and prevented the probable presentment or indictment of many individuals high in office and society.

Many of the prisons, asylums, hospitals etc., visited by your jury, are well and admirably managed, while a few present evidences of the necessity of an entire reform in their system of conducting them.

For instance the Workhouse and House of Refuge, instead of being improved to their assumption, could, with a little well directed effort, be made, at least, self-sustaining.

The Insane Asylum, that living horror, of which so much has been said and written, is of itself sufficient to call down the curse of Heaven upon any people, who could, for a single hour, countenance the existence of such a crying sin among [illegible]

Is it possible to have anything done for the poor insane?

Thanking your honor and the officers of the Court, for courtesies received, your jury respectfully asks for its discharge.

M. CARROLL,
Foreman.

Judge Abell on the State Treasurer and Official Corruption in General.—The following charge was delivered to the Grand Jury yesterday by Judge Abell. The Judge, upon delivering the charge observed that the inquest he was addressing would not have time to enquire into the matter, but he trusted they would recommend action upon the subject to their successors:

Gentlemen of the Jury—A card appeared in the public journals of the city, signed by the Treasurer, relative to a charge delivered to you on the 15th July. I deemed it unnecessary to notice it, although it was false in every particular, but some of my friends insist that it is due to the Grand Jury, in order to remove any false impressions that it might have made on your minds. He says, among other things equally absurd, that he has paid me my salary while on the Bench. This is a gross fabrication; he never paid me a dollar of my salary on or off the Bench. About the 1st of October, 1869, I called upon him with my warrants for my quarter salary. He told me to call again, which I did, and failed to get my money. Thinking myself trifled with I sold the warrant, and every subsequent one up to the 1st of January, 1871. They were all collected by the purchaser. One check was sent to the bank, payable to my order, but it was after I had sold the warrant. I indorsed and passed it to P. O. Peyroux, agent of the owner of the warrant, who will tell you so. I do, that I had no other interest in the check than either of you. I repeat, that I sold each and every warrant for the two quarters of the current year pledged, and that I have never collected one dollar of the Treasurer during his administration.

If his friends by such dissembling and subterfuge to impose upon the people, and to cover up the fact that he has been literally stuffing the Treasury with warrants received from Tax Collectors and the ring, instead of the money collected of the people and excluding the bona fide creditors of the State, he mistakes a poor estimate of the intelligence of the people. I have no controversy with the Treasurer. It he should build up a thousand fabrications, be they upon his own head; but if they should be of a character to reflect upon the judicial actions of the court, the law has vested in it ample powers to vindicate itself.

A. Dubuclet may suppose the Treasury of the State belongs to him, and that he may use it for the accommodation of his friends and the brokers, but I will say to him that it is the people's Treasury; that official preference and partiality is official oppression and crime, and accountable as such. That his conduct towards Judge Daydsmand and myself may be alone sufficient to cause him to be divested of his official robes. If there was money in the Treasury for other Judges and the brokers, why is the salary withheld of the only two Judges who are compelled to sit the entire year.

Gentlemen of the Grand Inquest, you requested me to charge you specifically as to the law relative to criminal violations of the revenue laws. I gave you some of the reasons on Wednesday last, which I promised to reduce to writing, with such other observations as might aid you in making suggestions in your report for the advancement of the public good. I said that I had been detained beyond my usual hours, to hawk and peddle in State warrants, due for salary, in order to pay debts due upon them, etc.

That the Treasury, once the pride of the State, and financial agent for her creditors, has become literally turned over to tax gatherers, brokers, shavers and hangers on around the corners.

That it could no longer be successfully approached except by that class.

That as a creditor, I had called frequently, and at my request the high sheriff of this court had called, warrants in hand, without receiving money or satisfaction, and that at a time when there was no injunction. Judge Dwight and fared no better.

Gentlemen, warrants on the treasury being worth only from fifty-two to fifty-seven cents on the dollar, and paid almost exclusively to tax gatherers, brokers, shavers, etc., warrants the inference that the State Treasury has been used as a rack and torture to force those who are creditors into the hands of these pets of the treasury.

That warrants being worth only about half their face shows the State to be bankrupt, with the greatest danger of necessary repudiation.

It is said that Legislative certificates of State indebtedness are as cheap as vegetables under Wickliffe. You see that one of these of fifty thousand dollars and two thousand and perhaps some hundreds, and the Graham [illegible] like a thousand. And the judge should see as long as a dozen there is nothing [illegible]

That ninety-four [illegible]

I have [illegible]

these jurors are made absolutely the judges of the law and of the fact. time of the court, and amount to little more than a farce, as has been demonstrated in the case of Auditor Wickliffe, against whom the most overwhelming facts were established by clear and satisfactory evidence.

Gentlemen, I would have complied with your request by laying before you the law relative to the criminal violations of the revenue laws of the State, and a list of the witnesses who have assured me that the public money has been loaned and otherwise used, in violation of the section of the revenue law of 1871, which prohibited revenue officers from [illegible] direct from the [illegible] My reasons for not having done so are that the [illegible] required that the Executive and the Attorney General shall prosecute in cases of the kind, and for the further reason, that I am of opinion that any effort on your part to bring officials to trial and punishment would be unavailing and calculated to tantalize, rather than redress the wrongs of the people.

Six hundred and fifty thousand people are millions of money wrung from their pockets, and at least one half of it appropriated in the most corrupt manner to individual aggrandizement.

As the Judge of the First District Court, I am of the mind, and give it as my deliberate judgment, that the laws, as they stand, are inadequate to check, much less to punish, official peculation and crime.

Gentlemen, all that you and your successors can do, is to use the advantages conferred upon you by your oaths under the law, to secretly examine and gather facts, and report them in a tangible form, and urge the wise men of the State, of all parties, to take counsel together for the redemption of the State from the hands of her oppressors and plunderers.

The maxim of the fathers of the country was, "Millions for defence, not a cent for tribute." Degenerate Louisiana says, "Millions for tribute, not a cent for defence."

Gentlemen, the darkest page in the history of the State, is now being made up in darkness which I repeat, when deciphered, will show present bankruptcy and perhaps future repudiation.

The great criminals who are destroying the future of this State, may for the present be too strong for the impotent laws upon the subject; too strong to fear a jury, one half of whom can neither read or write, but they may yet meet the frowns and indignation of an injured people, and forced to enjoy their ill-gotten gains beyond their rights.

[COMMUNICATED.]

The Merchants' Insurance Company and its Critics.

The charges which the Board of Directors of the Merchants' Mutual Insurance Company have thought proper to adopt in their sales of insurance [illegible] very improperly as well as [illegible] been made the subject of newspaper comment by certain self-constituted censors. All those who, unlike the writer of the verbose communication published in the Picayune of the 29th ult., have not staked their money are fully entitled to have their say upon the matter.

We are told by naturalists that the cuttle-fish, when closely followed, emits an inky fluid which so darkens the water around it that its pursuers can no longer see it. [illegible]

[illegible]

The whole case is in a nut shell. The reasons satisfactory to their own judgment, the managers of the Merchants' Insurance withdrew, as they had the unquestioned right to do, from the Board of Underwriters. This Board was thereupon dissolved, and each company resumed its liberty to adopt any rules and any tariff it might think proper.

Considering that the condition of things as regards fire and river risks had been materially changed within the last two or three years, the managers of the Merchants' Insurance Co. determined upon a readjustment of rates. [illegible] found that at the old [illegible] basis used at the close of the war had nearly sunk or been destroyed [illegible]

The directors of the Merchants' Insurance Company came to the conclusion that such being the case, the charges on river premiums were legitimately entitled to larger returns, and in order to equalize the profits between the two classes of insurers, they [illegible]

The party "who has sold his script" objects to this, and the subsequent chiefs [illegible]

Another equally crushing objection of the party "who sold" is the enormous risk incurred by the company [illegible]

[illegible]

BY TELEGRAPH.

To the New Orleans Bee.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Communists Sentenced by Court Martial.

M. Briery Sentenced to Death.

Proposition to Adjourn the Assembly.

Anniversary of the Surrender at Sedan Celebrated in Berlin.

HOME NEWS.

Destructive Fire at Meridian, Miss.

New Silver Mines in Arizona.

Honorable Discharge of Gen. Ryan.

Fatal Railroad Accident.

Miscellaneous Matters.

[illegible]

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL.

[illegible]

COMMERCIAL.

[illegible]

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Dr. J. B. [illegible]

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