

The Act of 1862, ch. 240, adds the following :

62. If any person shall wilfully pollute the water in the lake, hereafter to be known as Swan Lake, which was formed by the erection of the dam across Jones' falls, at or near the relay house, on the Northern Central railway, or any dam, reservoir, line of conduit, water pipe, gate-house, or other work constructed or used for supplying the city of Baltimore with water, by swimming, bathing or washing therein, or by washing or causing to be washed, any clothes, the skin of any dead animal, or any impure, foetid or noxious animal, or vegetable matter, in Swan Lake, or any dam, reservoir, line of conduit, water pipe, gate-house, or other work constructed or used for supplying the city of Baltimore with water, or so near as to pollute the water therein, or who shall throw or cause to be thrown, any impure, foetid or noxious animal or vegetable matter in said Swan Lake, or in any dam, reservoir, line of conduit, water pipe, gate-house, or so near as to pollute the water in any of the works used in supplying the city of Baltimore with water, the person or persons so offending, shall forfeit and pay a sum not less than five, nor more than fifty dollars for each offence.

63. If any person shall erect or cause to be erected, any privy, hog pen, or other thing, over or so near "Swan Lake," or any dam of the said works, as to pollute the water therein, the person or persons so offending shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding fifty dollars, and the further sum of ten dollars for each and every day the same shall remain, after due notice to remove the same shall have been given.

64. If any person shall injure or cause to be injured, defaced or destroyed, any dam, reservoir, line of conduit, water pipe, gate-house, stop cock, or other thing, used for supplying the city of Baltimore with water, the person so offending shall forfeit and pay a sum not less than five, nor more than fifty dollars for each offence.

65. All fines and forfeitures imposed by this act, shall be recoverable by warrant, before any justice of the peace, in and for

the city of Baltimore, or in and for Baltimore county, according to the respective jurisdiction under which any of the offences herein set forth may be committed; one half to the informer, and the other half to the mayor and city council of Baltimore.

66. This act shall not be construed to exempt any person or persons who may have been fined for a violation thereof, or who may be charged with a violation thereof, from an action of damages for any injury or destruction of any part of the works used in supplying the city of Baltimore with water, in any suit for damages on account of said injury, brought by the mayor and city council of Baltimore.

WOOD.

The Act of 1862, ch. 173, repeals sections 947, 949, and substitutes the following:

67. The clerk of the court of Common Pleas may issue licenses to retail and huckster wood, on any of the wharves in the city of Baltimore, upon the payment of one hundred dollars, for the use of the State.

68. No person shall retail or huckster wood on any wharf in the city of Baltimore, under a common trader's license, or without having first obtained a license for said purpose, as provided in the preceding section of this bill; and any person so offending shall be fined one hundred dollars, one half for the use of the State, and the other half for the use of the person who shall prosecute for the same.

[Reported for the Baltimore Sun.]
Proceedings of the City Council.

FIRST BRANCH, Friday, May 16th, 1862.—Mr. Schwartz presented the petition of Chas. Fellen for permission to erect a framed shed on Spring street; referred to the committee on the Fire Department. Mr. Dukehart presented the petition of Samuel Ready for the payment of a mortgage of \$4,300 on the Watchman engine House; referred to the committee on claims. Mr. Hoopes, from the committee on claims, reported a resolution appropriating \$449 91 for the payment of the claims of John W. Maxwell & Co., for carpenter work; adopted. Also, a resolution adverse to the petition of C. E. Brocks & Co. for payment for three cannon taken from them by Marshal Kane; which was adopted, and the committee discharged. Mr. Duer, from the committee on highways, offered an ordinance to authorize the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad Company, with the consent of the Canton Company, to use locomotives on the new railroad track on Alice Anna street. Mr. Young, from the committee on the Fire Department, reported a resolution authorizing W. F. H. Onion to erect a steam engine; which was adopted. Mr. Hoopes offered a resolution authorizing the comptroller to purchase 100 copies of the Supplement to the Maryland Code, (published by Murphy & Co.,) for use of public officers of the corporation.—Mr. Dukehart offered a message to the second branch proposing a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches on the resolution appropriating \$500 to aid in painting the Maryland Institute, which was adopted. Mr. Schwartz offered a resolution providing for the walling and covering of Harford run from Eastern avenue to the Back Basin. Mr. Dukehart offered a resolution requesting the city commissioners to inform the branch the cost of painting the outside of that part of the Maryland Institute occupied as a market; adopted. Mr. Hoopes, from the committee on claims, reported a resolution appropriating \$6,500 to pay James Polk for the portion of Battery Square owned by him, on certain conditions. The chair presented a communication from the mayor inclosing an invitation from the President of the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad Company to the members of the city council, board of trade, &c., to extend their proposed visit to Pittsburg and Chicago, over their railroad, which was accepted. Mr. Norris offered a resolution requesting the city commissioners to inform the branch the cost of walling and covering Harford run from Eastern avenue to the Back Basin, which was adopted. The ordinance making appropriations for 1862 was amended so as to facilitate the operations of the register; passed. The resolution providing for the celebration of the 4th July, and appropriating \$1,000 for fireworks in Monument Square, corner of Broadway and Baltimore street, and Franklin, Union and Madison Squares, was passed. The ordinance fixing the salary of the mayor for the two years ensuing was received from the second branch with an amendment reducing the amount from \$3,000 to \$2,000, which was non-concurred in. The resolution requesting the water board to place the sign of "Swann Lake" at each end of the railroad bridge over said lake, was received from the second branch, with an amendment changing the name to "Lake Roland," which was non-concurred in. Mr. Norris, chairman of committee on city property, reported adversely on the resolution requesting the park commissioners to expend one tenth of their receipts in the improvement of Patterson Park, with a resolution discharging the committee, which was adopted. The branch adjourned until Monday next at 5 o'clock.

SECOND BRANCH.—Branch met.—Present, Charles J. Baker, Esq., president, and a quorum of members.—A message was received from the first branch asking a committee of conference on the disagreement between the two branches on the hour for opening the several morning markets in the city, which was concurred in, and Messrs. Robb, Higgins and Marden were appointed on the committee on the part of this branch. A resolution adverse to abridging the limits of the Lexington Market on the west was received from the first branch, read and concurred in. A resolution authorizing the placing of a frame lantern over the city lamp at the corner of Baltimore and Calvert streets, by the National Reading Room Association, was received from the first branch, read and concurred in. An ordinance providing for the purchasing of a site for a new almshouse was received from the first branch and read. On motion of Mr. Dean it was read a second time by special order, and passed. A message was received from the first branch asking a committee of conference on the disagreement between the two branches on the vote to appropriate \$500 to aid in painting the exterior of the hall of the Maryland Institute, which was concurred in, and Messrs. Robb, Swindell and Miller were appointed on the committee on the part of this branch. Mr. Robb called up the ordinance for the appointment of a collector of taxes and prescribing his duties, which was further considered, amended and passed. Adjourned.

[Reported for the Baltimore Sun.]

Proceedings of the City Council

FIRST BRANCH, Thursday, May 15, 1862.—

Mr. Sullivan presented the remonstrance of Thomas H. Evans and others against granting permission to Lemuel Bierbower to erect a steam engine on the corner of William and Montgomery streets; referred to the committee on the fire department. Mr. Kirkwood, from the committee on markets, reported adversely on the petition of Wm. Lamping to abridge the limits of Lexington market on the west. The committee state that restrictions upon the trade of the country people should be removed rather than increased.—The report was adopted and the committee discharged. Mr. Mules, from the committee on highways, reported a resolution appropriating \$50 for the repair of the sewer on Division street, near Wilson street. Mr. Dukehart offered a message to the second branch requesting the return of the general appropriation bill for the purpose of correcting an omission &c., which was adopted.—The ordinance was returned, reconsidered and laid on the table. Mr. Young, from the committee on the fire department, reported a resolution appropriating \$3,000 for a new ~~presently~~ ~~engine~~ or that company be sold by the fire commissioners in part payment. Mr. Dukehart offered a resolution authorizing the National Union Reading Room Association to place a frame transparency over the city lamp in front of their room, at the corner of Calvert and Saratoga sts.; adopted. The resolution requesting the water board to place the sign of "Swan Lake" at each end of the railroad bridge over Swan Lake, was adopted. The resolution from the second branch regulating the hours of the morning markets, with an amendment fixing the hour of opening in the morning at 5 o'clock, which was not concurred in—ayes 4, nays 14. A message was sent to the second branch proposing a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes. The amended section to the ordinance to provide for the building of an almshouse on the Canton site, offered yesterday by Mr. Dukehart, providing that in case the building committee and either of the original almshouse contractors shall disagree as to the terms upon which his contract shall be renewed, that arbitrators shall be appointed to determine the same, and if their decision is not acquiesced in by said contractors, then the building committee shall advertise for new proposals, &c, was adopted. Also, an amendment providing that the original contractors in renewing their contracts shall waive all damages against the city for the suspension and abandonment of the buildings on the Goldsborough site. The amended section was then adopted, and the ordinance passed by ayes 18, nays 1, Mr. Sauerwein.—The branch then adjourned until Friday, at 5 o'clock.

SECOND BRANCH.—Branch met.—Present.

C. J. Baker, Esq., president, and a quorum of members.—An ordinance fixing the compensation of the mayor for the ensuing two years at \$3,000 per annum was received from the first branch and read. Mr. Dean moved to strike out \$3,000 and insert \$2,000; which was agreed to, and the ordinance as amended was passed. Mr. Robb called up the ordinance appropriating the sum of \$1,600 to provide for the education of deaf mutes belonging to the city of Baltimore; which was read. Mr. Robb moved that the enacting clause be stricken out, inasmuch as the State has already provided, by law amply for the education of this unfortunate class; which was agreed to, and the ordinance therefore rejected. A resolution directing the water board to place sign boards at each end of the railroad bridge over "Swann Lake," with the words "Swann Lake" in letters sufficiently large to be seen by travelers when passing in the cars, was received from the first branch and read. Mr. Dean moved to amend by striking out the words "Swann Lake" and inserting "Lake Roland." The amendment was unanimously agreed to, and the resolution passed as amended. A resolution to allow Robert M. Smith to erect wooden sheds at the corner of Eutaw and Ostend streets and at the intersection of Russell and Stockholm streets, was received from the first branch, read and concurred in. A resolution discharging the committee on the fire department from the further consideration of complaints in reference to the manufacture and sale of "parlor matches," in the city, was received from the first branch, read and concurred in. Adjourned.

THE WATER QUESTION. —Our city has been in a state of considerable agitation for years past on the water question, and it seems to be now quite as far from hopeful and satisfactory adjustment as ever. When the matter was transferred from a private company to the city authorities, people generally supposed that the former was a great, frightful monopoly, making fortunes for its stockholders at the expense of a helpless community, and that under its exactions we were all stinted and deprived of the precious gift of water, which ought to have been poured out in abundance. And then, in our indignation, we bought out the water company, enabling that shrewd and genial corporation to make a very handsome profit out of its old stock and materials by the operation. But we had got rid of the ogre—the odious monopoly, and hereafter we were to be our own masters, and the officials of the municipal government our *faithful servants*—an amusing fiction—in the water dispensation. From that time to this we have singularly enjoyed the change. A new set of officials has been brought into existence, an apparently endless dispute has been waged about additional supplies, water instead of being more plentiful and cheaper, is confessedly scarcer and promises to be dearer, and the new order of things has been characterized only by a series of exploits directed by a water board, finally centering in something that has been dubbed “Swann Lake,” but which it is said would be more properly designated Swamp Pond. At this day we are assured, and it is doubtless true, that water is so scarce and the supply so uncertain that it is desirable to urge upon everybody very considerate economy in the use of it, lest they should presently be deprived of it altogether.

We are not disposed to complain about the action of the authorities or of the water-board, but it is due to the citizens that some general principles should be allowed to prevail in relation to this important subject. A plentiful supply of water is of the first consequence to a large city; a supply, in fact, which shall be greatly in excess of the possible demand. In relation to this principle or policy, there will be no difference of sentiment on the part of the people, whatever narrow or contracted views may prevail with the authorities. The broadest and most efficient scope of action should be at the basis of all plans and operations for obtaining the necessary supply. And instead of a manœuvring and stinted economy which contemplates restriction and prohibition in the use of water, the very opposite policy is that which should influence and actuate the public authorities. The plentiful use of water should be inculcated; and to this end the best measures adopted to justify such a principle of public discipline. This is the very beginning—the alphabet of duty, pertaining to that authority to whom the subject has been confided. The design and purpose should be distinctly enunciated to furnish the whole city—every household, every individual, with as much water as may be required for any given purpose, and at the lowest cost; and with this design kept directly in view, there should be prompt and effective measures elaborated for its fulfilment—This is the policy which can alone characterize good and faithful public service on the water question.

To the accomplishment of such an end, we believe the main obstacles to be purely artificial and such as should be trampled under foot without hesitation. It is a fact well known to all the people, that the corporation has no duty to perform requiring the expenditure of money, in which it does not incur the embarrassment of ceaseless importunity, and the rivalry of parties anxious for a job. Patriotism insists upon fattening at the public expense. All sorts of plans, and suggestions, and theories are thrust before the dispensing and influential powers; but whether the thing is regarded as an annoyance, or as sweet incense to official dignity we are incapable of determining. Somebody insists upon the best stream for the supply of water; others upon various modes of conducting it to the city; others for the privilege of this and that portion of the work, and consequently any number of somebodies have to be put off, and offended, or a division of the work and the proceeds or spoils must be allotted amongst them. These are all evils—not of our system of government, but of its abuse—growing out of the lust of power, the invasion of our municipal affairs by the spirit of party, and the insolence and rapacity of partisans; and for these the people pay dearly indeed. No matter what party may be in power—not is our city the melancholy exception to better practice—the evils are more or less prevalent, and thus the enterprises of great pitch and moment, with this regard, their currents cross, and lose the name of action.”

Let our citizens realize the fact that in reference to the supply of water, the city government is actuated by a liberal policy, that it desires and intends upon such means of supply as will satisfy the common demand of the people for at least half a century, and any reasonable measures adequate to the end will receive their hearty co-operation. On the other hand, basing upon the necessity of compliance with an inefficient andiggardly policy by which water is to be metered out by the gallon, and is used every time we touch the hydrant, we look our portion, and may possibly thirst but for our wellbeing, and the community will take a retrograde step at once in cleanliness and hygienic discipline, and denounce the policy which would sacrifice their comfort and convenience to ignorance, folly or parsimoniousness.