

Clark & Brace, redemptions	3 25
Patrick Tregent, redemptions	4 15
A. Pulte, Jr., amount unpaid on refunding roll 1149	9 34
J. B. Walton & Co., purchase of bonds.....	1,950 00

Respectfully, etc.,
E. I. GARFIELD,
Controller.

Accepted and referred to the Committee on Claims and Accounts.

FROM THE SAME.

To the Honorable the Common Council:
Gentlemen—The following reports of city officers for the week ending Saturday, December 16, are respectfully submitted:

E. C. Hinsdale, City Treasurer—	
Receipts.....	\$28,836 38
Disbursements	11,687 21
	\$26,649 17

Wm. Y. Rumney, Receiver of Taxes.....	\$12,766 86
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John McBride, City Collector—	
Special Assessments.....	\$1,119 46

O. M. Bagley, Clerk of Market—	
Market rents—Bench	61 00
“ “ Cass Market.....	7 50

“ “ Sale of sheep and calves.....	1 70
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George M. Burchell, License Collector	
Licenses—Meat Shops.....	\$10 00
“ Meat by quarter.....	50 00
“ Auctioneers	17 50
“ Peddlers	2 50
“ Drays.....	1 00
“ Concessions	5 00
	\$36 00

Very respectfully, etc.,
E. I. GARFIELD,
Controller.

Accepted and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

FROM THE CITY COUNSELOR.

To the Honorable the Common Council:
Gentlemen—Since the report, at your last meeting, of the minority of the committee appointed to consider the communication of the Hon. C. I. Walker, relative to the creation of the office of Historiographer, and fixing the salary for such office, I deem it my duty to give you the reasons for the opinion I gave to the Committee on Ways and Means that no power existed in the present charter for such purposes; also to correct a mistake in the minority report as to my official action in 1870 on the same subject.

On the occasion, when in 1870 the city ordinances were submitted to me for revision, I reported upon this ordinance creating the office of Historiographer, and distinctly recommended that it be expunged from the ordinances, for the reason that there was no power in the charter authorizing such action.

This report, which embraced many other ordinances, was not published in the Common Council proceedings; but I distinctly remember that it was on motion of the gentleman who made the minority report that my advice was disregarded and the ordinance was retained.

On the 17th ult. on motion of the same alderman, the resolutions copied in the minority report inviting the State Historical Society to nominate such an officer to the Council, and communicate their views as to his salary, were adopted by this Council.

It is true that by sec. 2 of chap. 2 of the city charter, the Common Council are authorized to appoint all necessary officers, whether named in the charter or not—that is, they have a right to create any office, define its duties, and fill it, wherever such office and officer are necessary to the exercise of the powers and the discharge of the duties specified in the charter. It was under this general power that the office of Grade Commissioners has been created, and the duties defined. This latter was a proper office under the power and duty imposed by the charter to regulate and improve the streets of the city.

But no power or duty can be found in the charter authorizing the Common Council to provide a

place for the preservation and exhibition of historical collections. Nor to appoint an officer whose duties should be to actively engage in collecting, and passing history; nor to act as librarian for the Historical Society. It is therefore very clear to my mind that there is no power in the Common Council to appoint and pay an officer for the discharge of such duties.

If such latitude is to be given to the general power in the charter to appoint necessary officers, there is no benevolent enterprise which may not be aided and conducted by officers appointed and paid by the Common Council; there is no private business which may not be conducted at the expense of the city by city officials.

It was said by the alderman who moved the adoption of the ordinance in 1870, in disregard of my advice, that it could then do no harm to pass the ordinance, as there was no salary affixed to the office.

But now the evil of disregarding that advice becomes apparent, when that action is made the basis of recommending that it be made a salaried office, and the burthen of it imposed upon the people.

I am, Gentlemen,

Very respectfully, etc.,

J. P. WHITEMORE,
City Counselor.

Accepted and referred to the special committee on historiographer.

FROM THE CITY SURVEYOR.

To the Honorable the Common Council:
Gentlemen—I herewith submit to your honorable body assessment rolls Nos. 1367 and 1368.

No. 1367, for a plank sidewalk on the east side of Randolph street, in front of lot 41 Brush farm, Houghton section.

No. 1368, for a plank sidewalk on the west side of Randolph street, in front of lot 65, section 11, Governor and Judges' plan.

Very respectfully,

EUGENE ROBINSON,
City Surveyor.

Accepted, and the Clerk directed to give the usual notice.

FROM THE CLERK OF THE RECORDER'S COURT.

To the Honorable the Common Council:

Gentlemen—I respectfully report to your honorable body that the amount of fines and costs imposed in the Recorder's Court of the city of Detroit for the December term hereof, for the violation of city ordinances, is the sum of \$112.

(In one case the defendant has until the 25th inst. to pay his fine of three dollars and costs, making the sum of five dollars.)

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN T. MELDRUM,
Clerk of the Recorder's Court.

Accepted and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

FROM THE SAME.

To the Honorable the Common Council:

Gentlemen—I respectfully report to your honorable body that the jury heretofore impaneled in the matter of extending Cass avenue, from the Holden road to the northern limits of the city, have filed their report, and the same was duly confirmed by the Recorder's Court of the city of Detroit, on the 13th day of December, A. D. 1881, and that I have on this, the 19th inst., filed a certified copy of said report, and of the order of said court, confirming the same, in the office of the City Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN T. MELDRUM,
Clerk of the Recorder's Court.

Accepted

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

DETROIT HOUSE OF CORRECTION, }
Detroit, December 16, 1871. }

To the Honorable the Common Council:

Gentlemen—I find in the published official proceedings of the Council for last evening the following, viz:

“B. Ald. Bagg, Resolved, That the Superintendent of the House of Correction be, and he is hereby requested to inform this Council why the quarter-