

In this connection, permit me to say that it becomes a pertinent question as to whether the laying of stone walks would not be accelerated and relieved of burden, if the same procedure were had as now obtains in the matter of street paving. The objection to enforcing the laying of stone walks is that they are considerably more expensive than board walks, and the payment thereof must be made at once upon the completion of the work. If, however, the cost could be met by partial payments, extending over one, two, and three years, or guaranteed by a bond issued somewhat after the manner of the street paving bond, the property owner would be relieved from a burden too great for him to pay at once, and would find no difficulty in meeting the divided payments secured by this suggested method.

DETROIT'S BICENTENARY.

I again urge upon your honorable body, as I have done upon citizens individually, the absolute propriety, if not the absolute necessity of suitable celebration, by memorial or otherwise, of the passing of the second century of the city's existence. It seems to me that some magnificent monument built in the highest perfection of modern art, the grateful contribution of a prosperous people to a great historic event, should be erected, emphasizing thankfulness for past blessings and gratefulness for a future that already promises other and further graces. If no such memorials were found on consecrated fields, and as memorializing the passage of memorable events in the world's history, much of wealth and inspiration would be banished from the earth. That community is only doing its allotted share in national life which takes up cheerfully the burden that falls upon it and leaves to the generations to come the example of having met a patriotic duty, as well as those other demands for patriotism which invite sacrifices. It is permitted me to say that the question of the monument to individual gratitude here suggested is being considered and soon will be within the knowledge of all. I am sure that, when the plan is made known, it will call for the most liberal support of every lover of the city, and will insure a monument to which our people will point with pride, and which the stranger within our gates will seek with a reverent respect for those who have given of their fortunes to add to the enrichment of all. In addition to this project, it will be entirely proper, if not essentially necessary, that the city itself, as such, should inaugurate at least something of public utility in the way of a convention hall, memorial bridge, or something of like character, and which is very greatly needed, to mark its recognition of its two hundredth year of life, and of the blessings which have rather caused its strength to increase and its power to multiply with the increase of its years.

I will reserve the privilege of communicating further with your honorable body, and of requesting the appointment of a special committee to make further examination into the suggestions here made, so soon as greater progress has been made in the preparation of plans for the private memorial now in contemplation.

G. A. R. MEMORIAL.

The co-operation whereby the city

improvement upon Cass Market square, and to embody therein all the purposes for which the land was dedicated, and add thereto very comfortable, if not commodious, quarters for the use of our veteran soldier citizens, is not among the least of the pleasant events which have marked this last year. As the building nears completion, there arises the suggestion that for the use of the city's tenants on the lower floors it will be necessary to provide heat and light, which will be amply paid for by the rental revenues derived from the quarters occupied; and I beg to suggest that it would be a graceful thing, and entirely in consonance with the gratitude we feel towards those who would suffer for their country, that light and heat should extend to the quarters to be occupied by the Grand Army posts, thereby minimizing the expense which they will each have to contribute towards the home which the last of them will occupy for only too few years. Would it not best interpret the spirit of our people to take off the shoulders of the veterans a burden, which will be returned to the city in many ways, leaving only the expense of such custodians and care-takers as will be directly within their own number and brought in contact with them in the occupancy of their quarters. It will be borne in mind also, as directly bearing upon this matter, that the value of surrounding property has been enhanced for taxing purposes and in value by the erection of a building of such beauty. It certainly has not only served to beautify the square itself, but added character and value to property in the surrounding neighborhood. I make this suggestion to your honorable body as I know it will become a matter for consideration on the near completion of the building. I earnestly urge that a measure of generosity be exercised, which I believe will have the unanimous indorsement and support of all our people.

PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS.

The status of the small boy is one which in the past has been considered all too little. We should do more than treat the small boy as an outlaw and should do our best to provide a natural outlet for the youthful spirits of the city. In doing this we would but be following the footsteps of New York, Philadelphia and Chicago, where already the system of public playgrounds has been instituted with results which show themselves in the lessening of juvenile crimes in the police records. As a beginning, I would recommend that the School Board take steps to throw open to the children in the neighborhood of the schools the grounds surrounding the same, and provide suitable means for play.

EIGHT HOUR DAY.

I believe there is a fast growing sentiment in favor of limiting the hours of labor, making the legal day that which now obtains with those employed by the city. The benefit of this concession is seen in every direction, and its benefit to those who labor is best understood when we multiply the substantially three hundred days of labor by the number of hours saved, making 600 hours, or thirty-five working days in the year for the laborer's association with his family, for recreation, self-improvement, and all this implies.

POOR FUND.

apart for the poor has been well administered. It is gratifying to note that the prosperous condition which has prevailed in the last year has reduced the number of applicants for aid to the minimum. Very few able-bodied persons now apply for relief; and the fund is drawn upon only by the widow and the orphan, the aged, sick and poor. It would be a happy consummation of our fervent wishes if this could always be the case, and that the scenes of preceding winters might never be renewed, when those who were willing and able to work and not able to find it, were obliged to become the recipients of public charity.

The work of the Poor Commission, together with the splendid private charities sustained in our city, nearly thirty in number, relieve every form of misfortune and distress.

I have endeavored, so far as possible, to become acquainted, either by personal visitation, or otherwise, by inquiry, with the work being done by the several associations; and I do not believe that there are any more efficient institutions in the world than those which are ministering to distress in our midst. The work is done in the spirit of generous charity, and yet with fair discrimination, and with a spirit of helpfulness, whose motto is to help the dependent to help themselves. It is a matter of great pride for us to know that there is such a universal manifestation of the spirit of charity and of good-will.

MAYOR'S COUNCIL.

This body has demonstrated its effectiveness in many ways in information disseminated amongst the members of the Council, and it impels me to recommend to your honorable body that the system be increased so as to bring about an association which will involve as accredited members every officer, salaried and unsalaried, in the city, including the members of the Common Council, for the purpose of becoming better acquainted personally, and of discussing all matters of concern relating to municipal life.

I will communicate with your honorable body further upon this subject at a later day.

In closing, may I express the hope that the year upon which we enter may find us all filled with a spirit and purpose mutually helpful, and having one object in view only, the up-building and the ongoing of our city in all that make for civic righteousness. And while you, as a body, are composed of members, a majority of whom are not of my political faith, still I rejoice that we mutually forget these differences, that are inconsequential when compared with the interest which we have in our homes, in our fellow citizens, and in this peerless city: I hope that my own actions will be permeated by a spirit so wholly unselfish and disinterested as to command on your part a hearty support, such as I will give you in every direction possible, both in my personal and official relations to you.

Respectfully submitted,
WILLIAM C. MAYBURY,
Mayor.

proceedings and referred to appropriate committees.

Unfinished Business.

To the President of the Common Council:

Sir—I herewith transmit the unfinished business of the Common Council of 1899, as referred by it to the Common Council of 1900, for such disposition as may be deemed proper.

Very respectfully,
JOHN A. SCHMID,
City Clerk.

Accepted.
The following is the matter referred to.

Resolution accompanying report of Committee on Street Openings, laid over December 5, 1899, instructing Corporation Counsel to prepare resolutions condemning and widening Miami avenue. Also resolution accompanying minority report of said committee, laid over on the aforesaid date, vacating a certain portion of Miami avenue, between Witherell street and Gratiot avenue, and discontinuing same as a public street.

Referred to Committee on Street Openings to be appointed.

Resolution laid over Oct. 10, 1899, consenting to the purchase of property in matter of enlarging Clark Park, and authorizing issue of bonds in payment of same.

Referred to Committee on Parks and Boulevards to be appointed.

Resolution laid over Aug. 22, 1899, fixing assessment district, etc., in matter of opening alley in block bounded by Michigan avenue, Euclyan street, Welch and Livernois avenues.

Referred to the Committee on Street Openings to be appointed.

An ordinance laid over Dec. 26, 1899, entitled "An Ordinance to prevent spitting on sidewalks, in street cars and in corridors, halls and rooms of public buildings, etc."

Referred to the Committee on Ordinances to be appointed.

An ordinance laid over Dec. 26, 1899, entitled "An Ordinance to amend section 4 of chapter 136 of the Revised Ordinances of 1895" (guards on street cars).

Referred to the Committee on Ordinances to be appointed.

An ordinance laid over Dec. 26, 1899, entitled "An Ordinance changing the name of Welch avenue to Military avenue."

Referred to the Committee on Ordinances to be appointed.

Resolution laid over Jan. 2d, 1900, instructing Controller to draw warrant on Contingent Fund in favor of John Wagner, same being interest due said Wagner on certain sewer contracts.

Referred to the Committee on Sewers to be appointed.

Communication from the Mayor laid over Jan. 2, 1900, nominating Mr. James E. Davis member of Public Lighting Commission, etc.

Ald. Grunow moved the confirmation of the nomination, which motion prevailed as follows:

Yeas—Ald. Atkinson, Bleil, Coots, Deimel, Falvey, Fracher, Grunow, Haarer, Hansjosten, Hillger, Houghton, Joy, Knauss, Koch, Koenig, Lemke, McGraw, McGuire, Marx,