Monday, March 16. 1846.

The 1st Branch met pursuant to adjournment.

Present, Jacob S. Cohen Esq. President, and all the members except Messrs Neilson and Starr.

Mr McCauley presented a petition from Paul Saultzman, relative to two stalls in the Cross street market, which was read and referred to the joint committee on markets.

The President presented a petition from Duismore & Kyle and others counter to the erection of a pier at the foot of Calvert street, which was read and referred to the joint committee on the harbor.

The following communication was received from the City Counsellor, read and referred to the joint committee on police.

Baltimore, March 16, 1846.

To the President of the First Branch of the City Council

Sir

The following resolution passed the First Branch of the City Council March 11. 1846.

"Resolved That the City Counsellor at his earliest convenience, examine the ordinances authorizing the Baltimore and Susquehanna Rail Road Company to lay down tracks within the city, and report to the Council whether in his opinion that company possesses the power to make turnouts at it will or pleasure".

I have complied with the above instruction and do not find any power has been granted by the city of Baltimore, under any ordinance, to said company to make turnouts from said road within the city, excepting in the few instances mentioned in the 1st Section of an ordinance, entitled "An ordinance to authorise the extension of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Rail Road into the city", approved April 6th 1837.

It is requisite in all other cases where a turnout or lateral track is desired to be made, that the consent of the Mayor and City Council be first obtained, otherwise the laying of such track would be regarded as an illegal obstruction of the highway.

Very Respectfully

R. C. Pressman

Counsellor for the City of Baltimore.

The following communication was received from the Board of Health, read and referred to the joint committee on health.

Health

Health Office

Baltimore, March 12. 1846

To the Honorable, the Mayor and City Council.

Gentlemen.

In obedience to a resolution of the Mayor and City Council, passed at the extra Session of the Council held on the 28th of November 1845. directing the board of health to prepare a plan for the "erection, conducting and government of a small pox hospital" the board respectfully beg to report:

That charged with a duty so important as the devising of means to carry out the views of the Council in the premises, they have sought information from every reliable source, both as to the plan of the building suitable to the purpose contemplated, as well as its government and means of support, in the hope that they might be able to present to the Council a system of sanatory police, so far as such police relates to contagious diseases.

Perhaps the very best way of arriving at the real wants of the city in this matter, is to recur to the history of the epidemic for the past and present year. It appears, from the very best information that can be obtained, that the small pox was introduced into the city, indirectly by sea, before the time at which the quarantine inspection commenced. Although on the very first information received by the Board of Health, active measures were resorted to, for the purpose of arresting the disease; it got spread in such a manner as to show that the means at command were not equal to the task of preventing its onward march.

The first aspect in which the disease presented itself to the consideration of the Board, was such as to induce the removal of every case to the hospital, and the destruction of every article supposed to be infected, with the view of arresting the course of the scourge. Experience has shown that these efforts were not successful to the extent desired.

When the contagion had exhibited itself in various sections of the city, and it became manifest that the removal of cases to the hospital, as at present located, failed of its desired effect, i.e. checking the disease, another difficulty was presented to the Board of Health. The disease raged to a very great extent amongst the poor. Those who if afflicted with any other malady would have been proper subjects for the almshouse, but no provision for the reception of contagious diseases exists in that institution, so that in many cases humanity compelled the board to take charge of them, and thus involve the health appropriation in an expenditure which was not contemplated by the Council, while it left many to suffer who were entitled to relief. The operations of the Board of Health in this particular, were restricted to the very closest limits, not only for the reason already named, but

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