A report from the Joint Standing Committee on Claims, with a resolution relative to discharging the committee from the further consideration of the petition of George H Hell, were received from the First Branch and read.

On motion of Mr Hintze, the resolution was read a second time, by special order, and concurred in

Mr Herring submitted the following resolution, which was read and laid on the table.

Resolved by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, That the Mayor be, and he is hereby, directed to offer to the General Government for the erection and accommodation of the new post office in the city of Baltimore, such portion of the lot purchased of George Brown and John Whites Esquires, for a City Hall, as he may think the city can dispense with, without detriment to her own wants, for a sum equivalent to the cost of said property to the city of Baltimore, without interest; and in the event of a desire on the part of the General Government to adopt said location upon the terms herein indicated, the Mayor is hereby instructed to report the same for the ratification of this body.

Mr Simms submitted the following resolution, which was read:

Resolved by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore That a commission of seven citizens be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by a convention of the two Branches of the City Council, who shall serve without compensation, whose duty it shall be to take into consideration and report to the Mayor as early as practicable the most suitable plan or system for the entire reorganization of the fire department of the city, and to embrace in said report whether, in their opinion the present fire companies can, without disbanding, be brought into a more perfect state of organization for unity of action during the time of fire, under an engineer-in-chief with suitable aids, the chief to be elected by the ballots of such persons as have been in service as active firemen a specified time, also whether it would promote the usefulness of the fire department to provide one or more steam fire engines, also whether some regulation can be made which will effectually rid the fire department of the annoyance and confusion occasioned by the interference by their presence of crowds of spectators and others than active firemen, who frequent the vicinity of fires, and by obstructing the communication between those within and without the building on fire, leads frequently to danger and loss of life.

On motion of Mr Simms, the resolution was read a second time, by special order,

Mr Hintze moved to amend the resolution by adding thereto the words "also the expediency of establishing cisterns or reservoirs for the supply of such steam fire engines, if such should be adopted," which was determined in the affirmative

Mr Herring moved to refer the resolution to the Joint Standing Committee on Fire Companies, which was determined in the affirmative.

Mr Herring called up the resolution relative to granting permission to the Monumental Hose Company to occupy the stable situated on the south east corner of Lexington and North streets, as a place of deposit for their apparatus, which was read and concurred in.

Mr Bierbower called up the resolution relative to appropriating the sum of three hundred and sixty dollars to defray the funeral expenses of Joseph R Bruce, Joseph Ward, George Boyle, Jacob Marsheck, William E Abell, James Payne, Theodore A. Brown, Alexander Brown, Samuel B Hargrove, J Letzenger, James Hasson and Harman Bollman, who lost their lives at the fire on Charles and Lombard streets, on the night of the fourteenth instant, which was read.

Mr Hintze moved to amend the resolution by adding thereto the words "out of the diary of the members of the City Council" which was determined in the negative by the following vote, the yeas and nays being required by Mr Hintze.

Yeas – Messrs Hintze and Kelso – 2.

Nays Messrs President, Horney, Herring, Kirk, Gordon, Simms, Bierbower and Sullivan – 8.

Mr Bierbower moved to amend the resolution by adding thereto the words "the above amount to be considered a portion of the five hundred dollars heretofore appropriated for defraying the funeral expenses of the firemen who lost their lives at the fire alluded to in this resolution," which was determined in the affirmative

The resolution as amended, was concurred in by the following vote, the yeas and nays being required by Mr Kirk

Yeas – Messrs Horney, Herring, Gordon, Simms, Bierbower and Sullivan – 6.

Nays Messrs President, Kirk, Hintze and Kelso – 4.

On motion of Mr Kirk, the Branch adjourned until to morrow afternoon at five o'clock.

By order,

Allen E. Forrester, Clerk.