

the experts reported that the building could be erected for about \$200,000 without the tower, and \$225,000 with it. On the strength of this report it was decided to go on, and the agreement made with Apponyi by the former Council to furnish plans and specifications and to superintend the construction was reduced to writing and signed. Bids were asked for putting in the foundation, and a contract made and the work done. Bids were asked by advertisement for the construction of the building. The lowest bid received was \$279,000 without the tower. The only bid with tower complete was \$350,000. The great excess of bids over the estimates of the experts was accounted for, partly by the great advance in labor and material, and partly by the fact that full details of the tile and iron work were not furnished by Apponyi to the experts. Before deciding to accept the lowest bids and award contracts, criticisms were made by parties entitled to respect to the effect that there was not sufficient strength in some of the iron works, and that it would be unsafe to erect the building without correcting the plans and specifications. The joint committee decided to refer the plans to an architect for a report and Mr. Hale was selected. Besides some unimportant criticisms, his report stated that some of the iron work was not strong enough, and that there were architectural defects in the walls supporting the tower, rendering them too weak. The joint committee had lost confidence in Apponyi, and recommended his dismissal, and he was dismissed by both the county and city. While the joint committee was not entirely satisfied with the plans of Apponyi, it was thought they could be modified so as to more nearly meet the views of both parties than an entirely new plan, and that a competent architect could remedy the deficiency in strength and make necessary corrections which would result in proceeding more speedily with the erection of a building, as nearly filling the requirements of the city and county as any building could, on a lot the size of the site selected. Other reasons influencing the joint committee were that a considerable sum had been spent in putting in a foundation adapted to this place, and for the plans and specifications, which would be lost if new plans were adopted. After having decided to revise and accept the plans, it was not practicable to throw the matter of choice of architect open to competition, the changes in the plans had to be made under the direction of the city and county authorities; they could advise and direct one architect as to the changes to be made, but could not confer with the large number who sought the position. I state the case fully because there has been dissatisfaction expressed at the delay in the erection of the building, and because the selection of the architect was not left open for competition. The joint committee has also been disappointed and annoyed at the delay, for neither the city nor the county has sufficient office room to accommodate its officers, but the committee was unwilling to proceed with the erection of a building without knowing approximately what it would cost, or to erect one which would be unsafe or not

adapted to the wants of the city and county. In all matters relating to the building, the representatives of the city and county have acted together in entire harmony.

THE YEAR'S LABORS.

While the discharge of our duties during the past year has been accompanied with some of the usual annoyances of official life, yet it has brought to us some valuable experience which may be of use the present year, and enable us to discharge our duties more satisfactory to ourselves and the public. We can look back to the past year with the satisfaction of feeling we have done what seemed to us best for the interests of the city. Whether our labors are wise or unwise, we have seen the city continue to prosper and grow. During the year the population has increased. Buildings of the value of many millions of dollars have been erected; a volume of business transacted which puts the clearing-house record far in advance of any city of like size in the Union. Labor has been well employed, and the mining industry of Utah, on which the prosperity of the city so largely depends, was never in so favorable a condition.

To the members of the Council and the officers of the departments I desire to express my personal thanks for the uniform consideration and courtesy shown and for the assistance rendered me in the discharge of my duties. It will not be thought invidious, and I think will meet your approval, to especially mention the city attorney, whose constant and loyal services to the city at all times have afforded us indispensable aid in the discharge of our duties. I beg to acknowledge the assistance rendered me by the Chamber of Commerce, by its secretary, Mr. Gillespie, in answering the many inquiries received by mail from parties asking information about Salt Lake, its climate, resources, etc. The information has been promptly given.

GEO. M. SCOTT, Mayor.

At the conclusion of the reading Mr. Cohn moved that the message be printed in pamphlet form together with a summary of other reports. The motion prevailed.

CITY COUNCIL.

At a regular meeting of the City Council Tuesday, January 27th, the following members were present:

Councilmen Cohn, Anderson, Lynn, Hall, Pembroke, Pendleton, Armstrong, Noble, James, Karrick and Parsons. Mayor Scott presided. After some preliminaries the following business was transacted:

PETITIONS.

Petition of Abraham Jeffs, asking the City Council to sell him a piece of property situated in lot 6, block 69. Committee on public grounds.

Petition of J. J. Van Streeter, asking the City Council to take action on a former petition in which he asked for the sale to him of certain property in block 6, plat C. Committee on public grounds.

Petition of the Utah Nursery Company asking the Council to sell them a piece of property in Sugar House Ward. Committee of Jordan and Salt Lake canal.

Petition of Salt Lake City Brewing Company asking to be allowed to connect a three inch pipe with the city water mains. Committee on water-works.

Petition of Fred Trimmer protesting against the removing of gravel in City Creek canyon. Granted.

Petition of the Rapid Transit Company asking for a remission of the tax of 14 mills on each fare collected, up to December 31, on the ground that the road was scarcely paying expenses. Committee on license.

REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY.

In the matter of the petition of the Fifteenth Ecclesiastical Ward, asking a remission of taxes, amounting to \$62.90, the city attorney recommended that the prayer of the petitioners be granted.

The same officer recommended the payment to the clerk of the Third District Court of the sum of \$27 for costs incurred in committing Susan Green, Busky Due, Roy Grundil, Thomas Blandell, Samuel Brown and Emil Averson to the Reform School.

The same officer also submitted a lease (in duplicate) to be executed by the City Council to Henry Barnes and Edward Byrne for the Warm Springs property. The report was adopted.

Petition of W. W. Gee asking that he be appointed Police Magistrate was read.

City Attorney Merritt—The office referred to is not vacant, so that should settle the matter.

The petition was tabled on motion of Councilman Cohn.

FRED KESLER COMPLAINS.

The following communication from Fred. Kesler was read:

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

Your petitioner respectfully represents to your honorable body that he is a justice of the peace, duly elected and qualified, in and for the Fourth Precinct of Salt Lake City, and as said justice of the peace he is a part of the judicial power of said city pursuant to Article 11 of the amended charter of said city, approved March 3, 1888; and that as such judicial officer it is his duty to act as a conservator of the peace, and to examine all cases arising by the violation of any ordinance or by law of this city, and that under said charter he is compelled to do so, and under the United States "Fee Bill" made by an act of Congress in relation to the Territory of Utah, approved June 23, 1874, he is entitled to the fees in said fee bill in certain criminal cases to be paid by the city of Salt Lake, and by reason of the acts of your honorable body heretofore taken in fixing and appropriating a salary of \$1800 per year to be paid to H. S. Laney another justice of the peace duly elected and qualified in and for the First Precinct of said city.

Your petitioner further represents that he has been wholly deprived of said fees in forty cases, more or less, tried before him as such justice of the peace since the 12th day of January, 1891.

Your petitioner insists that by the acts of your honorable body in allowing said \$1800 per year to the said H. S. Laney, as such justice of the peace, your petitioner and all other justices of the peace in this city have been wholly deprived of all legal fees for cases heard and tried by them upon complaints made for violations of said city ordinances, and your petitioner respectfully insists the act in fixing said salary of \$1800 to one justice, to the utter exclusion of all other justices, is wholly unauthorized, illegal