

THE TIMES=VISITOR

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THE STREET MEN GET THE CASH

Bond Money Will be Transferred at Once.

MR. MILLER WRITES A SPICY LETTER

Finance Committee's Meeting Occasion of Sharp Repartee Between Messrs. Brewery and Miller—Both Committees Doing Their Best for the City's Advancement.

Chairman Henry W. Miller, Messes W. E. Jones and Leon Wilder, of the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen, and Chairman John C. Drewry and Messes D. S. Hamilton and H. H. Crocker of the Street Committee, met in the mayor's court room this morning to adjust the matter of the \$2,436.02 paying money that has up to this time been in the general funds of the city and that was claimed by the Street Committee because the money was originally taken from the \$50,000 of the bond money appropriated for their work for the fiscal year ending February 28th, 1900, which was printed in the Times-Visitor yesterday in an article announcing the discharge of seventy-five employees of the street force on account of a lack of funds for the committee to continue its work. The story was widely read yesterday and had caused unusual comment in all circles, and the fact that the Street Committee had spent all of its allotment for this fiscal year over-spared surprise, notwithstanding the fact that the January report of the committee showed that they had to their credit only about \$1,200. This they wished to cover by obtaining the sum of money that had been placed in the general funds, and which they did this morning, the Finance Committee ordering the transfer of those funds from the general treasury to the credit of the Street Committee and recommending to that committee that the work on permanent improvement be stopped until the new appropriation for the next fiscal year falls due. This, too, will be done necessarily so as the original amount of \$2,436.02 will not prevent the continuation of the work of a permanent nature, the payment of the salaries contingent thereto, and settlement of the bills outstanding for hardware, iron, charcoal, feed for the new horses, and the other necessities.

At the meeting there was a general discussion in which the leading parts were taken by Chairman Miller and Chairman Drewry.

A discussion as to previous understanding regarding the question at hand and a review of the conditions prevalent at the time of the arranging of the budget for city governmental expenses just a year ago, Mr. Miller and the other members of the Finance Committee were of the opinion that it had never been the intention of the Street Committee to ask for their customary appropriation in addition to the bond allotment, and Chairman Drewry and his committee having an entirely different view of the matter, maintained that it had always been known to be necessary to continue temporary improvement such as repairs to streets and bridges, feeding horses, and the like, and that every year in the history of the city from \$10,000 to \$15,000 had been appropriated for temporary work, the smallest annual appropriation being \$10,000.

The meeting was interesting from several standpoints. It was interesting because it gave an opportunity to see the inside workings of the city finances and of the Street Committee, developing the fact that there will be a small deficit in the city finances at the end of the fiscal year and that the street committee will have done no work on permanent improvement for five weeks of the year, but at the same time showing able management on the part of the committees governing the finances and the streets, records that the members of both committees feel are to their credit.

The meeting was interesting because there were lively countercharges of forgetfulness on the part of each of the two claimants, which, however, were only in the best of personal feelings.

In the discussion as to the intention regarding an appropriation for the temporary work on the streets Chairman Drewry said to Chairman Miller that the latter would understand the matter if he had paid proper attention to the campaign for the bond issue. This came up again in the meeting when Mr. Drewry said that he did not understand at the time of the making of the city budget that the Street Committee would not come in for an extra appropriation, though he admitted being present at the meeting, and Mr. Miller remarked to Mr. Drewry that he would answer him in his own words, in substance, that as Chairman of the Street Committee he should have paid more attention to the city's finances and the allotment to money to his own committee.

Mr. Miller said to Mr. Drewry that he had recently written the latter a letter, while en route South, and while Mr. Drewry was in Richmond, regretted not having sent the letter, but would do it to him. He stated that the letter was sent to City Clerk Smith with instructions to show it to Messes. Jones & Wilder, which was done. Mr. Miller left the road the following letter:

My Dear Mr. Drewry: I have your letter of January 12th, in regard to the expenditures on account of street work. I note you say the Street Committee has about spent all of the money appropriated to them. I also note you say "Shall I stop all work on the streets or will the Finance Committee allow us to use that money?" meaning the money received from the assessments for paving. I also note you say, "It will cause a great cry

if the work is stopped and will bring great discredit on the present administration."

I do not know when I have been as much worried over a matter as over the question of endeavoring to keep the finances of the city in such condition as to meet its obligations without having a deficit at the end of the fiscal year. As you know, it was thought best not to increase the tax rate one cent per thousand in the \$100,000 bond issue with a dollar increase in the tax rate. In order that we could do this it was necessary that the most rigid economy should be practiced by all departments. You will recall that we had to face the fact that an increased appropriation was necessary for a great many of the departments and that it was agreed that in view of the fact that the \$50,000 bond money was available for street improvements that we would not set apart anything out of the general fund on account of that department.

Notwithstanding the fact that nothing was set apart for the street department the work was never stopped and the permanent improvements progressed prior to the issue of the bonds and the Street Committee spent \$7,357.67 out of the general fund for permanent work which could not be under the decision of the City Attorney, paid back to the general fund from the bond money and the Finance Committee have had to face this expenditure which, when the tax rate was agreed upon was not anticipated, as it was thought that the bond money could be used to repay the expenditure.

Referring again to that clause of your letter in which you say you hope we will allow you to use the money "because it will cause a great cry if the work is stopped and will bring great discredit on the present administration." I do not think the giving of orders to stop the expenditure of money which is not in the treasury will cause as great a cry or bring as much discredit up in the administration as the continuation of the work which would result in a large deficit at the end of the year. There are very good reasons now for stopping the work, the first being no available funds the second being during January and February the weather being bad, satisfactory progress cannot be made. I recognize that it will be necessary to make some expenditures in the next six weeks, such as feeding stock and other absolutely necessary expenses, but our committee is clearly of the opinion that with no funds available such work as grading and cutting and gathering should be stopped. On the 1st of yesterday a car of cuttings was received and has to be paid for and there is a question whether the bond money which you say will be available on March first can be used to pay for any cutting received before March first, as the \$50,000 available for the first year has practically been spent.

I have had some figures taken from our books and that we are at present in very fair financial condition and for your information I give them to you below:

General Fund	
Receipts March 1, 1899, to Jan. 1, 1900	\$75,547.42
Warrants issued March 1 to Jan. 1, 1900	56,262.88

Balance to 1st instant Jan. 1, 1899 \$21,241. Estimated Receipts basing on last year's figures:

January, 1899	\$8,623.06
February, 1899	4,982.99

\$10,605.05 Estimated Expenditures closing on last year's figures:

January, 1899	\$8,892.40
Feb., 1899	3,653.72
	7,537.12

Balance to 1st instant Jan. 1, 1899 \$2,551.93

You see I am taking it for granted that our receipts in January and February of this year will be the same as the previous years for these two months in '98, which I doubt, as more people paid their taxes in November and December of 1898 than in the same months in 1899. The expenses, I think, will be a little heavier, as it is necessary for some of the departments to have more. You will recall the expenses of the police department is greater.

With one more figure you can see that we are sailing pretty close to shore and unless the street work is stopped and the expenditures on that line is cut down we will have a very large deficit starting in the spring. I am satisfied that it is your wish as well as ours that we should not have a deficit when we close the books for 1899.

I cannot refrain from referring again to that portion of your letter as to the criticism which would be occasioned if the work was stopped. Not being a member of the Street Committee, I have heard a great many complaints, which you would probably not hear, from politicians and parties largely interested in real estate that there had been entirely too much grading and cutting down of streets, a great many contend that one of the beauties of Raleigh are the rolling streets. You, of course, are aware of the fact that I am merely giving what I hear without any desire to criticize as far as I am concerned the work done, but I think it would be much better to stop the work now and reorganize your force again at the beginning of the next fiscal year and thus prevent a deficit to any greater extent than is possible.

I am exceedingly sorry that I cannot see you personally and talk over this matter more fully. I have seen Mr. Hamilton and so has Mr. Jones and Mr. Wilder, the other members of the Finance Committee, and we have talked this matter over fully and frankly and do not see where we can, in justice to our financial condition, recommend any more money for the street department during this fiscal year. I am writing this letter enroute South to be gone until Saturday.

Feeling sure that you appreciate my position in this matter and with best wishes, I am Respectfully,

H. W. MILLER,
Atlanta, Ga.—Dictated by Mr. Miller.

With reference to that special paragraph of the letter regarding criticism of the Street Committee, Mr. Drewry said to Mr. Miller:

"A great many people go to see you and criticize the Street Committee. You would be surprised to know that ten

times as many people come to me, I hear ten times as much as you do, but I am glad to hear from you the other tenth. The question of rolling streets is a matter of honest difference of opinion. We could not do street work to please everybody. The Street Committee has not expected that and has not attempted to do it. What one man thinks, who knows his business, another who does not know thinks otherwise. There is sometimes a difference of opinion among experts on the same subject. We have obtained the best scientific and expert men who have studied the subject and they are the ones who deserve the credit for the great improvement in some of the streets. The engineers are the men who do the work and to them is the honor due."

I do not know when I have been as much worried over a matter as over the question of endeavoring to keep the finances of the city in such condition as to meet its obligations without having a deficit at the end of the fiscal year. As you know, it was thought best not to increase the tax rate one cent per thousand in the \$100,000 bond issue with a dollar increase in the tax rate. In order that we could do this it was necessary that the most rigid economy should be practiced by all departments. You will recall that we had to face the fact that an increased appropriation was necessary for a great many of the departments and that it was agreed that in view of the fact that the \$50,000 bond money was available for street improvements that we would not set apart anything out of the general fund on account of that department.

Speaking of Morgan street, which was the occasion of the criticism heard by Mr. Miller, Mr. Drewry said that there were not to be found ten per cent of the people who would not say that the removing of that great knot that obstructed sight from one end to the other of the street was not the proper thing and that the street is not greatly improved.

The reason of Mr. Jones' that the \$2,436.02 be transferred to the Street Committee as it was by right of law, was supplemented by a motion of Mr. Miller that the adoption carry with it the recommendation that the Street Committee cease all permanent work until the next allotment of bond money was adopted and the meeting adjourned. Mr. Crocker stated to the meeting that with the amount turned over there was no necessity for the Finance Committee to make this suggestion.

NEW CORPORATIONS

Old Hickory Club at Salisbury—Big Corporations for Fayetteville.

The American Manufacturing Company was incorporated today, C. H. Tyler, W. H. Johnson, C. B. West, C. M. Cook, J. D. McNeill and D. E. Wright being officers of the corporation with the Secretary of State. The company will have headquarters in Fayetteville and the principal object is the manufacture and sale of crockery, glassware, etc. The capital stock shall be \$50,000.

Salisbury will have a social club. A company was incorporated for this purpose today and among the incorporators are such well known men as Judge S. Henderson, Lew S. Overman, Walter L. Robins, Stephen E. East, David L. Gaskins and John M. Julian. The name of the organization will be "The Old Hickory Club" and its object is social, literary, entertainment and amusement. The capital stock is \$1,000.

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ALL HAVE A GOOD TIME

Pretty Girls, Attractive Pictures and Catching Songs by Raleigh Girls.

The Confederate Concert comes off tonight at Metropolitan Hall and is already assured success. In fact it is a question it will not be the among those at the age of the list of amateur performances that have won the highest praise for the past.

The flying pictures, musical numbers, recitations and the specialties are to be rendered by pretty debutantes who have been training for their appearance tonight. They are ready and expectant and will sing with good voices, specialty prepared for this occasion by the A. and M. College Band, the piano may exceed a high old time.

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Tonight the beauty of Raleigh will deck their ladies in the fairest form day and in the words of the old song "96% of their money's worth." The boy shows numerous initials of social leaders, he being marked off for his couplets to the extent that it is now expected that the night's performance is in every way to be practically a wholesale attainment of affairs that gossips have passed during the present day season.

The Duke Scene, with several songs, is one of many pretty numbers on a program which has already been published and which contains the names of a large number of beautiful and innocent young women who are to take part.

Every one should go first to see the best concert that has been given in a long time, second to get their money's worth and third, but by no means least to see a most worthy cause.

HAPPY HIT OF OPERA COMPANY

A Crowded House Unanimously Approved Their Performance Last Night.

Upon start to finish the performance of the "Two vagabonds" by the Wilson Opera Company at the Academy of Music last night was a howling success, every promise of the advertiser being fulfilled and many additional attractions not with a usual being brought in.

The opera is Wilson's version of the "Two vagabonds," the audience is treated to music and humor sufficient to keep laughter throughout the play, and with Miss Kirwan as Fanchon, wife of Gérard, and an excellent chorus to sustain the operatic scenes, the whole is a complete success. The Wilson Opera Company has been well received here since its arrival, and it is believed that the audience will be equally pleased with the "Two vagabonds" as with the "Two vagabonds" of the Wilson Opera Company.

The "Two vagabonds" is complete. There has been nothing to match it during the past year, and it is believed that the audience will be greatly interested in the interesting details of a great battle fought on yesterday in Natal, South Africa, and in the manner in which the British are fighting it, and in the manner in which the Boers are fighting it.

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