# The New Orleans Bee.

OFFICE 73 CHARTRES STREET. NEW ORLEANS, THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 7, 1872. ...V.—Whole—18,812.



NEW ORLEANS DAILY BEE.

DUFOUR & LIMET, Publishers, No. 73 Chartres street.

TERMS OF THE BEE.

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TERMS—PER YEAR.....$5.

NEW ORLEANS:
THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 7, 1872.


Amusements This Evening.

OPERA HOUSE—Benefit of Mr. Coulon—"Robert le Diable."
VARIETIES THEATRE—"Richelieu."
ST. CHARLES THEATRE—"Henry Dunbar, or, The Outcast."
ACADEMY OF MUSIC—"La Belle Helene."

## THE CITY INSANE ASYLUM.

The City Council, at their session on Tuesday last, adopted a resolution authorizing the Administrator of Public Buildings to make certain repairs on the United States Marine Hospital, with the view of occupying it as a temporary asylum for the insane persons now confined in the Parish Prison, a building in several respects objectionable as a place of detention for this class of the population. The subject of suitable accommodation for insane persons in charge of the city of New Orleans has been before our municipal authorities for many months. An appropriation of some hundred thousand dollars in city bonds was made for the purpose of buying lands and erecting thereon a building properly designed for the treatment of these persons, but there has been some obstacle in the way of the realization of the plan, the character of which we have been unable to ascertain. Whether it is that the Administrators have been too much engaged in matters they consider more important, or that they have some scheme of speculation in view by which to realize a profit for themselves, we are not prepared to say. Certain it is the Insane Asylum has not yet been built, nor has even a site been obtained. Public clamor, however, has forced the Council to take the matter into their consideration, and the result is the adoption of the temporary measure above stated, a measure which, we hope, will not be carried into effect for two reasons, viz: The unhealthiness of that part of the city where the Marine Hospital stands and the utterly unsuitable plan of the building as an asylum for the insane. Besides this there is too much reason to suspect that the Council have determined on this temporary measure, more with a view of silencing the public clamor and ridding themselves of the subject matter than from any earnest desire to improve the condition of these unhappy dependents upon the charity of the community. There is too much reason to apprehend that should the transfer be made to the Marine Hospital, the Administrators would consider themselves discharged of the responsibility. It is clear to our minds that the measure is not well advised and that the condition of these wards of the city would not be improved by their transfer from the building which now shelters them to the Marine Hospital. A personal examination of their present quarters satisfies us that no change should be made until better accommodations are provided. It would be less disadvantageous to the inmates of the asylum to remain where they are than to remove them to the Marine Hospital, a building and a location to which there are serious objections as an establishment for the insane. Let us, by all means, see to the very front—right at least bank, either above or below the city—being the best location for an insane asylum—a building which ought to have the benefit of the river breezes and proximity to an unlimited supply of water. Why there should be an aversion to the river front on the part of any Administrator, we cannot understand. There are several eligible properties in this part of the city which can be obtained for a reasonable consideration.

Mr. A. B. Mullett, Supervising Architect of the United States Treasury Department, lately made a report concerning the Marine Hospital, which should cause the City Council to hesitate before exposing these insane persons to the discomforts of that miserably arranged building and to the malarial influences of the swampy ground upon which and near to which it stands.

We make the following extract from Mr. Mullett's report to the Government officers at Washington, of date October 30, 1870:

"I would also renew my recommendation that authority be obtained for the sale of the unfinished iron structure known as the Marine Hospital at New Orleans, La. It is situated in an unhealthy and unsuitable locality, and will require a much larger sum to repair and complete than the value of a well-arranged and suitably constructed hospital of proper size."

### MUNICIPAL TAXES FOR 1872.

The text of the City Funding Bill, adopted by the Legislature at its late session, has been published by the *Picayune*. This bill is more odious than the one upon which we lately commented. It abolishes the limitation of taxes which was placed at 2 per cent., and it orders the levy of a police tax of one-half per cent. in addition to the municipal taxes voted in December last by the City Council and it imposes also a tax of 5-16ths per cent. for the schools. We have said that the State taxes, according to the laws recently enacted, would exceed two per cent. and here is the evidence of it.

TAXES IMPOSED BY THE COUNCIL DECEMBER, 1871.

| | Per $100 |
|---|---|
| Park tax ½ of one per cent., or | 0 12½ |
| Consolidated debt | 0 46¾ |
| Jackson and Opelousas Railroad bonds | 0 16 |
| One million loan | 0 20 |
| Streets ¾ of one per cent., or | 0 75 |
| Current expenses | 0 78 |
| Police ½ | 0 12½ |
| Voted by the Council, total | $3 36¼ |
| Police tax—authorized by City Funding Bill | 0 50 |
| Special tax for schools 5-16 | 0 31¼ |
| Total | $3 86¾ |

We have then obtained by this enumeration three dollars and fifty-five and a half cents per hundred dollars, and this is for municipal taxes only, and if we add to this two per cent. for State taxes, the proprietors of city property will pay more than five and a half per cent. for their State and city taxes. One sees then if the Government of Mr. Warmoth is not a good one, at all events it costs very dear.

It has been suggested that the tax-payers should refuse to pay these taxes, but the other city journals do not wish to entertain such a proposition, fearing to displease their patrons who hold State and city securities and who wish to hold on to these as long as their interest is regularly paid. It seems to us the holders of these bonds (legitimately issued bonds) would gain no more than any one else would by the repudiation, and if refusing to pay taxes would produce this result, it is necessary to resort to this method without hesitation. The people of New Orleans are called upon to decide this: Must we pay in 1872 a tax of five and a half per cent. Yes or no?

Mr. Van Norden, who has made himself notorious as a stockholder in the matter of the bribe to be paid by the Governor to Mr. Lewis, a member of the Legislature, in the event of his voting for the Metropolitan Police Bill, which the Executive desired to be adopted, was at one time the accomplice of a scoundrel named Cole, a negro who has now absented himself from Louisiana from his fact. We allude to the author of the "Bird Ordinance," Mr. E. C. Ewly, an individual who, since the war, held several offices under the City Government, and whose memory is fragrant in this community.

We are pleased to learn that our friend, Mr. Charles T. Soniat, has been commissioned by the Governor as a notary public. Mr. Soniat is a very promising young lawyer of ability, whom friends will always be glad to hear of his success in life. He may be found at the law office of Edward Rousseau, Esq., Royal street.

LITTERS.—The ... Mr. ... Mr. ... Mr.