

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND  
ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MUNICIPAL  
IMPROVEMENTS, HELD AT CINCINNATI,  
OHIO, SEPTEMBER 11, 12, AND 13, 1895**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649660704

Proceedings of the Second Annual Convention of the American Society of Municipal Improvements, Held at Cincinnati, Ohio, September 11, 12, and 13, 1895 by American Society of Municipal Improvements

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Cover @ 2017

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OF THE

SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION

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CINCINNATI, OHIO,

SEPTEMBER 11, 12, AND 13, 1895.

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CINCINNATI:

THE COMMERCIAL GAZETTE JOB PRINT.

1895.

## OFFICERS 1894-1895.

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**PRESIDENT:**

M. J. MURPHY, St. Louis, Mo.

**FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT:**

G. H. BENZENBERG, Milwaukee, Wis.

**SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT:**

GEORGE S. GATCHELL, Buffalo, N. Y.

**SECRETARY:**

D. L. FULTON, Allegheny, Pa.

**TREASURER:**

A. JORALEMAN, Newark, N. J.

# THE AMERICAN SOCIETY

OF

## MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS.

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During the summer of 1894 Mr. M. J. Murphy, Street Commissioner of St. Louis, Mo., sent out a number of letters to mayors, boards of public works, and other officers having the supervision or control of municipal departments or works throughout the country, suggesting the idea of forming a society, to meet annually, for the purpose of discussing improved methods pertaining to the particular departments over which they may have supervision or control. A large number of favorable responses were received, and Mr. Murphy opened up another correspondence with a view of determining where the first gathering should be held. A majority of the replies favored Buffalo, N. Y. The Common Council of that city adopted a resolution, which was approved by the Mayor, extending an invitation to hold the first meeting in that city. They also appointed a committee of twenty-five citizens to make the necessary arrangements to entertain the guests in case the invitation was accepted. Mr. Murphy issued the call, to meet in Buffalo on September 19, 1894, and in response thereto about sixty representatives of various municipal departments, representing some thirteen cities, assembled at that time and organized this society. To Mr. Murphy, of St. Louis, the title of father of the society, therefore, applies.

*Second Annual Convention.*

The following gentlemen attended the Buffalo Convention:

## FORT WAYNE, IND.

THOS. D. DEVILBISS.... Chairman Board of Public Works.  
 WILLIS HATTERSLEY. . . Member Board of Public Works.  
 G. H. LOESCH..... Councilman.  
 W. TIGAR..... "  
 CHAS. GRIEBEL. .... "  
 P. WOLF..... "  
 P. J. SCHEID..... "  
 B. BARKENSTERN..... "  
 H. MICHAEL..... Ex-Councilman.  
 F. M. RANDALL..... City Engineer.  
 F. J. MILLER.....  
 GEO. REITER.....  
 C. H. WALTERMATH.....  
 A. FUELBER..... Newspaper Representative.  
 O. E. MOEHLER..... "  
 O. L. DRUMMOND..... "

## NEW HAVEN, CONN.

J. B. SERGEANT..... Mayor.  
 J. M. STATES..... President Board of Public Works.  
 WM. MALEY..... Member Board of Public Works.  
 J. E. MCGANN..... "  
 JAS. BISHOP..... "  
 P. DOYLE..... "  
 C. W. KELLY..... City Engineer.

## ALLEGHENY, PA.

D. L. FULTON..... Superintendent of Highways and Sewers.

## GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

F. E. LETHLIER..... President Board of Public Works.  
 A. E. WORDEN..... Member Board of Public Works.  
 J. J. McVEAN..... "  
 H. A. COLLAR..... City Engineer.

## MILWAUKEE, WIS.

G. H. BENZENBERG.... City Engineer and Pres't Board Public Works.  
 F. SCHNEIDER..... Commissioner Board of Public Works.  
 E. M. SCHEUNGEL..... "  
 SAM BROCKMAN..... "

## BUFFALO, N. Y.

GEN. GRO. S. FIELDS... President Board of Public Works.  
 GEO. S. GATCHELL.... Commissioner Board of Public Works.  
 JAMES MOONEY..... "  
 R. G. PARSONS..... Secretary Board of Public Works.



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LOCKPORT, N. Y.

CHAS. G. HILDRETH....Secretary of the Holly Manufacturing Co.

NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

SAVORY C. HATHAWAY...Member Board of Public Works.

A. B. DRAKE.....Superintendent of Streets.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

ROBERT E. MCMATH...President Board of Public Improvements.

R. R. SOUTHARD . . . . .Sewer Commissioner.

CAMDEN, N. J.

L. E. FARNHAM.....City Engineer.

JOHN BLOWE.....Street Commissioner.

OMAHA, NEB.

J. H. WINSPEAR.....Chairman Board of Public Works.

ST. A. D. BALCOMBE...Sewer Commissioner.

F. J. KASPAR.....Street Commissioner.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

A. KRAMER.....Member Board of Public Works,

MEMPHIS, TENN.

P. C. POWERS.....Street Commissioner.

NEWARK, N. J.

HARRISON VAN DUVNE.President Board of Public Works.

A. JORALEMAN.....Member Board of Public Works.

SYRACUSE, N. Y.

H. B. JOHNSON.....Commissioner Board of Public Works.

PORTLAND, ME.

G. N. FERNALD.....City Engineer.

CINCINNATI, O.

AUGUST HERRMANN....President Board of Administration.

GEO. F. STERRITT.....Member Board of Administration.

JOHN B. WASHBURN.... " " " "

JOHN FREY..... " " " "

D. W. BROWN.....City Auditor.

After an address of welcome by the Mayor of Buffalo a Committee on Permanent Organization, consisting of the following gentlemen, was appointed:

Geo. T. Sterritt, Cincinnati, O.	A. J. Joraleman, Newark, N. J.
Geo. H. Benzenberg, Milwaukee, Wis.	P. C. Powers, Memphis, Tenn.
F. Letellier, Grand Rapids, Mich.	Andrew Kramer, Indianapolis, Ind.
D. L. Fulton, Allegheny, Pa.	J. H. Winspear, Omaha, Neb.
Jas. M. States, New Haven, Conn.	John Blowe, Camden, N. Y.
T. D. DeVilbiss, Fort Wayne, Ind.	R. R. Southard, St. Louis, Mo.
C. H. Fernald, Portland, Me.	S. C. Hathaway, New Bedford, Mass.
H. B. Johnson, Syracuse, N. Y.	Geo. S. Gatchell, Buffalo, N. Y.

*Second Annual Convention.*

This committee reported the following constitution and by-laws at the evening session of the convention, which were unanimously adopted :

## OBJECT.

The object of this society, which shall be known as "THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS," is to promote information upon and to discuss the best methods to be employed in the management of all municipal departments and the construction of municipal works, by means of annual conventions for social intercourse, and the reading and discussion of papers upon municipal improvements, and to circulate, by means of annual publication, among its members the information thus obtained.

## MEMBERSHIP.

The municipalities of this country, and its officers who have charge or supervision of municipal departments or works, shall be eligible to membership in this society.

## ADMISSION FEE.

Each municipality may become a member of this society by payment of five dollars for each delegate to the annual convention, and each individual who is eligible to membership upon payment of five dollars.

## DUES.

The dues for each member or individual representative shall be three dollars per annum, payable on or before the date of the annual meeting.

## OFFICERS.

The officers of this society shall consist of a President, two Vice-presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall act as an executive committee for and in behalf of the society.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The officers of this society shall be elected on the second day of each annual convention, and each municipality shall be entitled to as many votes as it has representatives present.

## MEETINGS.

The annual meeting of this society shall be held on the second Wednesday of September of each year, in such city as the majority vote of its members shall decide. Selection of place of meeting to be made after the officers shall have been elected.

## AMRNDMENTS.

These rules may be amended at any annual convention by a two-third vote of all members voting.

Thereupon permanent officers were elected for the year, as follows: M. J. Murphy, of St. Louis, Mo., President; G. H. Benzenberg, of Milwaukee, Wis., First Vice-president; George S. Gatchell, of Buffalo, N. Y., Second Vice-president; D. L. Fulton, of Allegheny, Pa., Secretary; A. Joraleman, of Newark, N. J., Treasurer.

The cities represented were then called in their alphabetical order for such suggestions as their delegates desired to present. It was at once seen that an interchange of views, as could be had in annual conventions of this kind, would be productive of much good and benefit to the cities represented in these conventions, and, to use the language of one of the members, "more information could be gathered in two or three days' sessions of this kind than in a whole year's correspondence."

The permanent officers of the convention were then appointed an executive committee to draft a more complete set of articles and by-laws, to be submitted for the consideration of the society at its next annual session.

After quite a spirited contest Cincinnati was chosen as the location for the next annual convention.

Mr. Aug. Herrmann, representing the Board of Administration of Cincinnati, presented the following paper:

**MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN:**

I presume that the majority of cities that are represented at this convention are in much the same position as Cincinnati; that is to say, they came here to assist in perfecting a permanent organization of the various municipal boards of the country, and not to discuss any particular subject at this time. We heartily indorse this movement, and believe that at future gatherings of this kind, when papers on certain subjects can be arranged and prepared in anticipation of such conventions, much can be learned which will be not only of interest to ourselves, but of great importance to the people and cities which we may represent. As I have stated, the board which I have the honor to represent is not here to-day with any pre-arranged papers or subjects for discussion. At the suggestion of my colleagues, however, I have hurriedly prepared a statement with reference to the purchasing of materials and supplies, a department recently established in our city under the direct control of the Board of Administration.

There is, perhaps, more power centralized in our board than in any board of its kind in the country. We have entire control of no less than eight separate and distinct departments—to-wit: Office Department, where all of the official business of the board is transacted, and where all