

Mayors Office

Chicago, Dec 30 1862

Gentlemen of the Common Council,

At your meeting on the 1st ins't, you authorised me to incur any necessary expense to secure the benefit of having a stream of water turned from the Calumet Feeder through the Canal into the Chicago River, In compliance with your resolution, I agreed with Mr. Preston, the Sup't of the Canal, that the City would pay the Expense of removing any deposit that might accrue from such action on his part, and he accordingly turned the stream into the river as desired, Afterwards, by resolution of the Canal Board, he presented me a contract, of which I herewith submit a copy, obliging the City, not only to remove the deposit which might accrue, according to our former agreement, but also to

Make all repairs necessary to the banks of the Canal, the necessity of which may arise by his action in the premises,

I deemed ~~that~~ ^{to be} this contract, ~~most~~ objectionable in form, ^{as it made the Superintendent of the Canal Board, the Sole umpire &} and I therefore ^{judge of the damages}

refused to ~~enter~~ become a party to the same on behalf of the City, unless the same should be specially directed by the Common Council,

I herewith submit the contract proposed by Mr. Preston; for your consideration, and should it meet your approval, it will be executed at once on the part of the City by the Mayor & Comptroller

Respectfully submitted

F C Sherman Mayor