

1859

September 5th

The Report of Committee relative to Continued Hydrant in Albemarle Street is next taken up and Read. the same lies on the table for the present.

The order of the day is suspended to allow the Petitions of Messrs Hamilton and Devine this day submitted to be read.

Petition of W. B. Hamilton -

- ilton

Read the Petition of W. B. Hamilton (See file)

Petition of Wm Devine -

Devine

Read the Petition of William Devine (See file)

When on Motion the two Petitions just read are referred to the Committee of City Property to report upon.

Communication from Wm Young rel. to Kings Lots

Read Communication from Hon William Young relative to Streets in Kings Lots so called.

When on Motion the said Communication with the accompanying plan are referred to the Superintendent of Streets to report upon.

Act rel. to Special Constables.

Read Act concerning Special Constables a second time Clause by Clause

- Read Clause One Passed
- " Clause Two Passed
- " Clause Three Passed
- " Clause Four Passed
- " Clause Five Passed
- " Clause Six Passed.

Read said Act a third time On Motion said Bill is ordered to be fairly engrossed and presented to the Legislature at its next session for approval.

Report Special Committee rel. to suspension of Samuel King =

Read Report of Special Committee relative to suspension of Samuel King one of the Measurers of Coal. when on Motion said report is confirmed and Mr King reinstated in office.

Report of Supt of Streets rel. to Hatch Ways in Hollis St.

Read Report of Superintendent of Streets relative to excavations for Hatchways in Hollis Street

When on Motion said Report is referred to His Honor the Recorder to report upon. who is also requested to prepare a By Law on the subject if practicable.

1859

September 5th
Continued
Letter E. Chevalier
Naval Storekeeper
rel. to Water lot

Read Letter from E. Chevalier Esquire
Naval Storekeeper relative to Water lot at North City Wharf
dated 11 August last and submitted this day.
When on Motion said report is
referred to Committee of City Property to report upon.

On Motion
Council rise

Henry Taylor
Mayor

September 5th

William Craig and William
McLean are this day sworn into office as Watchmen
and Special Constables for the City of Halifax in
Presence of His Worship the Mayor.

September 8th

Robert Morrow, Alfred Jones,
Thomas Abbott, Peter Scott, William Ellis, William
Metzler, Michael Kenny Jun^r, Archibald Warshaw,
John Brander, John Richardson, Sen^r William
Pablisters, John O'Malley, John Lisswell, James A
Connor, John Starr, James Wilson and Richard
Nincoore are this day sworn into office as Inspectors
of Elections for ensuing year in Presence of His Worship
the Mayor.

Henry Taylor
Mayor

1859
September 15th

At a Special Meeting of the City Council held this day present His Worship the Mayor Aldermen Hay, Cogswell, Caldwell, Towns, Morrissey, Swining, Thompson, Mignowitz, Conway, Jennings Pitt, Richey,

Read over proceedings of 5th September

The City Council were summoned to take up communication from Water Company relative to a further supply of Water for Fire purposes and the transaction of other business -

Report Special Committee on S. Sedons Petition

Alderman Richey submits report of Special Committee on Mr Stephen Sedons Petition; On Motion the same is received.

Memo of A. Miller relative to his Assessment

Alderman Conway submits Memorial of Andrew Rator relative to his Assessment; On Motion same is received and referred to His Worship the Mayor.

Memo of John Watt and others relative to a Hydrant

Alderman Hay submits Memorial of John Watt and others relative to a Hydrant; On Motion the same is received.

His Worship the Mayor submits Communication from Water Company, of 13th Sept. 1859. - The same is read -

Halifax September 13th 1859

Sir

Communication of Directors Water Co. relative to further supply of Water =

I have been requested by the Directors of the Halifax Water Company to lay before you for the consideration of the City Council the following proposition which if acceded to, the Board will be prepared to carry into effect without delay, namely,

They will lay down a 12 inch main pipe from the Ball Court at the south end of Gottingen Street to Brunswick Street, and thence continued south along Barrack Street to Sackville Street and lead six inch branch pipes therefrom down Sackville, Prince, George Duke and Buckingham Streets to Hollis Street laying a new six inch pipe along Hollis Street between Sackville and Buckingham Streets, the branch pipes to have a suitable number of fire plugs attached to them and to be used solely for fire purposes for the annual rent or sum of three hundred and fifty pounds,

His Worship
The Mayor

Sam^l H
(Signed) S. L. Shannon
Secretary

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September 15th

Halifax N.S.

12th September 1859

Continued

To His Worship
The Mayor
And The Worshipful
The City Council of Halifax

Gentlemen

Communication
from Board Fire
Insurance Comrs
to City on 9th Sept
1859

The Board of Fire Insurance representing all the Fire Insurance Companies doing business in this City have deputed us to make the following communication to your Worship and your Worshipful Body -

The amount insured in our offices on property destroyed by the conflagration on the Night of Friday the 11th exceeds One Hundred and twenty six thousand pounds Currency, of which we have ascertained that we shall be called upon to pay upwards of One Hundred Thousand Pounds. The amount insured and now at risk in our Offices exceeds some Millions of Pounds.

Under these circumstances we trust that it will not be deemed presumptuous or officious to ask in reference to the late Fire that immediate and effective investigation be made - First into the immediate cause of the Fire, Secondly into the causes why a conflagration by which Three Whole Blocks of Buildings (with the exception of Mr Ossons Building) were totally destroyed occurring at the early hour of Nine o'clock in the evening, with a calm atmosphere and the advantage of Moon light, was not arrested in its progress. If it should be found on such investigation among other things that the supply of Water from the Water Companies Fire Plugs was deficient in force and quantity - that there was great want of organization and method in the means employed that the force of Firemen was altogether inadequate giving them credit for using all the exertions in their power, or that aid from the Military was not promptly given - these considerations will be suggestive of the remedies to be applied. And we fervently hope that effectual and energetic measures will be adopted without delay, and that no contracted ideas of ill advised economy will be allowed to interfere with the providing prompt remedies where such large interests are at stake.

If we might be permitted we would respectfully suggest that a supply of Water should be provided by laying down a pipe of sufficient dimensions, not less than 12 Inches - along the whole of Barrack Street with branch pipes leading down the hill to be used exclusively for Fires. That Hose of sufficient strength and length be obtained to be used with the above.

That a Steam Fire

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Continued

Engine should be immediately procured. And that an effective Fire Brigade be organized who shall have the exclusive order and management of Fires.

We think it our duty to add that unless we shall be enabled to assure our respective Companies that this subject has been earnestly entertained by the Corporation with a view to prevent a recurrence of such disastrous results as have just occurred we entertain serious apprehensions that their business will be withdrawn, or if continued that their premiums will be so raised as to be seriously felt by the Community

We have the honor to be
Sir and Gentlemen
Your most obedient Servants,
(Signed) W. Young
Arch^d Scott
Hugh Hartshorne

His Worship the Mayor also submits and reads the above Communication from W. Young and others Agents of Fire Insurance Companies,

Read Letter of Edward L. Longard submitted 11th March 1859 relative to introduction of Water for Fire purposes from Birch Cove Lake.

To His Worship the Mayor of the City of Halifax and Aldermen in Council Assembled
(See Next Page)

The Petition of the undersigned who begs to call your attention to the following explanations in reference to scheme for bringing the water from the Birch Cove Lakes to Shapoths Hill to a reservoir proposed to be built there and thence by three main pipes to the three sections of the City as therein described and as proposed by him in 1851

(Error)

1859
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Continued

To His Worship the Mayor of the
City of Halifax and Aldermen in
Council Assembled,

The Petition of the undersigned who begs
to call the attention of your worship and Aldermen to the
following explanations in reference to a scheme for supply-
ing the City of Halifax with Water for fire purposes as
proposed by him in 1851 and at that time submitted to
several gentlemen connected with the municipality-

Letter dated 2^d
Longard rel. to
a further supply
of Water =

Respectfully I sheweth

That in that paper petitioner
detailed his scheme for bringing the water from the Birch
Cove Lakes to The Groves Hill to a reservoir proposed to be
built there, and thence by three main pipes to the three
sections of the City, as therein described,

Owing to the inefficiency of
the plugs in most parts of the town arises one of the principal
difficulties the fire company have to contend with viz; the
want of a full supply of water at the instant a fire commences.

From this cause from twenty minutes to half an hour
is often lost a tremendous time in the progress of a conflagration. But under the most favourable circumstances
the largest supply that can be brought to bear on one point
cannot exceed the quantity afforded by two plugs.

The undersigned would add that an effectual
supply of water for fire purposes cannot now be obtained
in the portions of the City to the North and West of the
fire plug opposite Mr. McTindays. This plug having been
found useless so far as affording a supply in case of fire
without an engine. And from personal observations that
an effectual supply cannot be obtained from Long Lake
for that portion of the City.

It should also be remem-
bered that this part of the City is steadily extending to the
West along North Street and to the North along Cottingen
Street, where the Fort Redham Barrack has just been in-
serted and where Islesville is being rapidly built up.

By the scheme proposed sixteen efficient jets may be
concentrated on any point in the City proper below Barrack
Street each jet delivering at least one hundred gallons a
minute in all sixteen hundred gallons per minute, and
in all the higher and suburban parts of the City an ample
supply would be furnished. He would now call attention
to some of the principal advantages which the Citizens of
Halifax would derive from the adoption of that scheme and
to show that it may be introduced without in the sequel
costing the taxpayer one farthing.

Petitioner has ascertained

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Continued

from authentic sources that the value of the perishable property in Halifax is about two millions six hundred thousand pounds Currency. Upon rather less than two thirds of which insurance is supposed to be effected at an average of 4 per cent per annum making the amount paid annually for insurance twelve thousand pounds. Now assuming that an ample supply of water in cases of fire would reduce the risk to say 3 per cent, there would then be a saving of two thousand pounds - to citizens who insure.

There is also one Million of property owned by citizens who do not insure, but whose property would be 3 per cent safer from fire by the introduction of an adequate supply of water. This item would amount to one thousand two hundred and fifty pounds. The amount paid by the citizens to the present Water Company is six hundred and fifty pounds. The Union Fire Engine Company as at present constituted consists of eighty members a force barely sufficient to work one engine.

There are six effective engines now in use and owned by the City requiring at least five hundred able bodied men to work them during a fire -

Should it be found necessary to pay for this service, the smallest calculation would give at least ten dollars each per annum. This sum probably too small an estimate amounts to one thousand two hundred and fifty pounds which added to the other proposed savings makes an aggregate of five thousand one hundred and fifty pounds Currency.

A force equal in number and discipline to the present Company would be sufficient without assistance either from the citizens or Military to subdue a fire with the proposed supply in far less time than it can possibly be accomplished by five hundred men with the present defective Water System and I have learned by an experience of over twenty years that it is not the number of hands engaged on a fire that brings it under control but the quantity of water that can be brought to bear upon it. Judging from the expenditure of the Long Lake Water Company it may reasonably be concluded that water can be brought from the Birch Cove Lakes for a sum not exceeding forty thousand pounds. (Because it should be borne in mind that this scheme simply comprehends a supply for fire and city purposes) A sum which could doubtless be borrowed at 5 per cent making \$2000.00
Add to this 1/2 per cent for other expenses 500.00
Total \$ 2500.00

over

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Continued

To meet this amount a saving in risk and other expense is shown to the extent of \$5150.00

Petitioner craves your earnest attention to the above statements and regrets his inability to lay them more elaborately before you,

And as in duty bound will ever pray

(Signed) Edward J. Longard

When following resolution is introduced

Resolved to the Communication of the Water Co and Longards Petition being referred to a Special Committee

Resolved that the Communication from the Halifax Water Company, as likewise W. E. Longards Petition, Alderman Twinings resolution together with the Communication from the Insurance Company on the same subject, with any other suggestions that may be made for the greater efficiency of the Fire Department and a more ample supply of Water for fire purposes be referred to a Committee to report upon at an early date. Moved by Alderman Bell seconded by Alderman Jennings which on being put is passed unanimously.

Committee Aldermen Hay, Caldwell, Thompson, Mills, Mignowitz, and Bell.

Resolved to Recorder preparing a By Law rel. to Common

The following Resolutions are next introduced

Resolved that His Honor the Recorder be requested to prepare a By Law, specifying the purposes for which the Common may be used without special license from His Worship the Mayor and requiring application for such license in all other cases. Moved by Alderman Bell seconded by Alderman Richey which on being put is passed.

Resolved to a Committee Dr. Averys property

Resolved that a Committee be appointed to ascertain from Dr. Avery what amount he will take for the property owned by him near the Ordnance Yard and what amount of Subscription can be obtained from the Citizens towards the amount and report to this Council with as little delay as possible. Moved by Alderman Cogswell seconded by Alderman Twining which on being put is passed.

Committee Alderman Cogswell, Richey and Mignowitz.

The following resolution is next introduced

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September 15th

Continued

Resolved to the
Direction of
Buildings with
Cornices of Wood

Whereas the Act to prohibit the erection of Wooden Buildings within certain portions of the City passed the 15th day of April last appears to this Council to be defective inasmuch as it does not specify that Wooden Cornices and Shingled roofs shall not be allowed on Brick or Stone erections and it seems expedient that these defects in the act should be remedied.

Resolved that the Draft of a Bill in amendment to the said act be prepared by the Recorder embodying such provisions as appear to him to be essential to render the act efficacious for the purpose contemplated in the passage thereof, and that after the same shall be approved of by this Council it be published for the information of the Citizens in order that its provisions may be observed in all erections afterwards to be made, or the penalty which it may provide be justly imposed. Moved by Alderman Richey seconded by Alderman Mignowitz which on being put is passed - unanimously -

On Motion

"Council rise"

Henry Taylor
Mayor

1859
September 26th

At a Quarterly Meeting of City Council held this day present His Worship the Mayor Aldermen Pugsley, Cogswell, Caldwell, Towns, Morrissey, Twining, Thompson, How, Wills, Mignowitz, Conway, Jennings, Bell, Richey

Read over proceedings of last Meeting

Alderman Twining Chairman submits report of Committee of City Prison of 23rd Sept 1859

Report Special
rel to Dr. Avery's Lot

Alderman Cogswell submits report of Special Committee relative to Dr. Avery's Lot, received

Memo of Hon
Enos Collins rel
to his Assessment

Alderman Twining submits Memorial of Hon. Enos Collins relative to his Assessment,

Report Special
Committee rel
to late Fire

Alderman Richey submits report of Special Committee relative to the late fire in Granville Street, received

Alderman Mignowitz submits Memorial of Sergt. Forbes relative to his Assessment

His Worship the Mayor submits resignation of James Bull as Measurer of Salt & Grain

Report Supt of
Streets rel to the
Expenditure on
Streets to 25 Sept
1859

His Worship the Mayor submits and reads report of Superintendent of Streets on Expenditure of Streets from 1st May to 25th September 1859 also amount to be expended

Streets Office
Made up 25th September 1859

The Superintendent of Streets begs leave to report for the information of His Worship the Mayor and the City Council that he has expended the different sums named below for Street purposes from the 1st May up to Friday the 23rd Sept.

Ward 1 including the sewer past	
Mr. Lithgow's property	320 - 0 - 8
Ward 2	251 - 15 - 6
Ward 3	153 - 15 - 11
Ward 4	98 - 1 - 3
Ward 5	1107 - 16 - 8
Ward 6	288 - 8 - 6
	<hr/>
	1483 - 17 - 6

Balance due by the Streets 1st May 1859 166 - 18 - 2
 Amount granted the Common from S. C. 75 - 0 - 0
 £ 1724 - 17 - 8

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Continued

	Brought up	£ 17 ²⁴ - 11 ⁰⁸
Debit		
Paid by J. Lithgow on ac of		
Sewer past his premises		50 - 0 - 0
		<u>£ 16⁷⁴ - 11⁰⁸</u>

The Superintendent would further report that he will require to expend about £200 more this season viz about 70£ on the Campbell road and the remainder in cleaning up and preparing for the winter there are no open accounts against the Streets except the Blacksmiths and Wheelwrights Bills under contract which will not exceed £50.

The amount collected up to 1st May last year was £2176 9 0, and anticipating about the same amount to be collected this year, a sufficient balance would remain for winter purposes,

all of which
is respectfully submitted
James Pollock
Supt of Streets

Report Supt of
Streets rel. to Petition
of Robert Malcolm
obstruction of Sewer

His Worship the Mayor the Mayor
submits and reads report of Superintendent of Streets
of 25th September 1859 - on Memorial of Robert Malcolm
relative to the obstruction of a Sewer -
Streets Office

25th September 1859

The Superintendent of Streets begs leave to report for the information of His Worship the Mayor and the City Council,

That in consequence of a Sewer or a drain being closed by Mr Philip Letson which passed through his field, and then drained the premises now owned by Mr Malcolm and others into Fresh Water Brook; the Sewer in Morris Street was undertaken and constructed by Mr Anderson Esq then being Commissioner for the Ward, Sometime after I cannot say at what time it was found insufficient as a public Sewer and Mr Irons in 1852 widened and deepened it as also did Mr Govet in 1854 by a large amount of labour from Bridewell and other ways, the drainage appeared to be suitable, from that time till last Autumn when Mr Malcolm addressed a letter to His Worship the Mayor, complaining of defective drainage from his premises, the nature of the complaint will more fully appear by reference to the letter and report of Superintendent of Streets,

The part

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September 26th
Continued

The part of the Sewer which is obstructed has been opened and cleared of a deposit of from 4 to 11 inches in depth and when a new Culvert is made across Park Street and the surface Water turned more directly into the Brook, the Sewer may serve the purposes for public drainage for some time; a careful survey has been made to ascertain the cost of rebuilding and the most practical inclination which appears to be one foot vertical to 100 Horizontal as will appear by the red line marked on the plan to excavate and rebuild to the red line would cost \$375,

All of which is
respectfully submitted

James Pollock
Supt of Streets.

Letter Town Major
rel to amount
Noted the Droops

His Worship the Mayor submits and reads a Letter of Town Major of 10 Sept. 1859 (See file)

His Worship the Mayor submits and reads a Letter from Quarter Master General's Department of 15 Sept. 1859 (See file)

On Motion His Worship the Mayor leaves the Chair

Resolved to Comm-
ittee to prepare an
address to His
Worship the Mayor

Alderman Thompson takes the Chair when it is moved by Alderman Pugsley seconded by Alderman Wills that a Committee be appointed to prepare an address to His Worship the Mayor on his retiring from Office the same to be presented at next meeting of Council. passed unanimously.

Committee Aldermen Swining, Thompson, Cogswell and Pugsley; in connection with His Honor the Recorder

Alderman Wills moves that the order of the day be suspended and that the report of Special Committee relative to the late fire in Granville Street be now read passed - the same is read -

Committee Room of City Council
Halifax 24 Sept 1859

Report Special
Committee rel-
to late fire in
Granville Str.

We the undersigned Aldermen deputed by His Worship the Mayor to investigate the origin of the fire which on the night of Friday the 9th inst destroyed two blocks of buildings lying between Barrington and Hollis Streets have examined as witness the owners of the property in which the fire originated and

1859

September 25th and the occupiers of surrounding properties with persons
Continued in their employ respectively and several of those who were
earliest at the scene of the fire.

We have been unable to obtain any evidence of the
cause of the fire, but a careful consideration of the
testimony given before us has produced the conviction that
it was purely accidental and must either have been
caused by a spark entering the window from some
neighbouring chimney or arisen from spontaneous
combustion of material on the premises.

(Signed) Mathew H. Pichey
W. Guman
Philip Thompson
Alderman

On Motion the order of the day is
suspended and the report of Committee of City Prison
this day submitted is next taken up and read

Report Committee
City Prison Sept
24th 1859 - rel.
to finishing of the
Prison =

The Committee of the City Prison report
that they have visited the Prison several times since their
last report and inspected the work as it proceeded and
on Monday last - the Committee at the request of the
Superintendent visited it and found the work of the
Contractor nearly completed - the Committee have since
received from the Superintendent his certificate that
Mr Davis has fulfilled his contracts at the City Prison
according to the plan and specification and to his entire
satisfaction which certificate is herewith annexed.

The Committee from their own observation think
that the work has been well performed so far as they are
capable of judging. Mr Davis has performed some
extra work for which he has been paid. He is not
entitled to the balance reserved under the contract until
three months after the completion of the work. But if
the contract has been completed as certified by the Super-
intendent there seems to be no reason for withholding the
payment. The Committee would state that Mr Davis
was bound to fulfil his last contract by the first day of
May last but the Committee considering the time short
agreed at his earnest request not to enforce the penalty
in case the work was completed by the first day of
July. Nearly three months have elapsed during which
time the Superintendent has been continued at an expense
to the City of 120 per day. The Committee report the
fact and leave it for the Council to decide whether any
deduction

1859
September 24th
Continued

A deduction should be made from the Money now payable to Mr Davis some small portion of the time he was occupied by Mr Davis in performance of the extra work.

The Committee having performed the duty assigned to them to the best of their ability now consider themselves released from their labours when the building is taken of the Contractors hands some person will be required to take charge of it as some weeks must elapse before it can be occupied. They suggest the propriety of retaining the Superintendent for that purpose.

The Iron Bedsteads contracted for will require to be fitted on the different cells this might be attended to by the Superintendent. A Well has been sunk for a considerable depth and the prisoners from the work house are now engaged on it. It is hoped that a sufficient supply of water will be obtained some temporary out houses are also required.

The Committee submit a memorandum furnished by Keeper of the Bridewell of the articles that will be required for the New Prison. The Committee would also suggest the necessity of some arrangement being made by contract for the conveyance of accused persons to and from the Prison previous to their final commitment - in a Van as is usual in other places under similar circumstances.

And they would also suggest the appointment of a special committee by whom some uniform and approved system should be concocted and submitted to the Council for the future management of the Prison and its inmates, All which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) Charles Swining
Chairman

Committee Room
Sept 24th 1859

Certificate
Halifax Sept 21st 1859

To Chairman and
Committee City Prison
Gentlemen

I hereby certify that Mr Robert Davis has performed his first and second Contracts for erecting and finishing the exterior and a portion of Interior of City Prison according to plan and specification and to my entire satisfaction.

Signed B. De G. Marshall
Supt of Prison

Certificate of
Supt of City Prison

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September 26th
Continued

when following resolution is next introduced

Resol. rel. to City
Prison and Payment
of Contractor

The report of the Committee of City
Prison having been read It is ordered that the said report
be adopted and that the balance found to be due to W^m
Davis on his contracts be paid after the same is adjusted
and settled. Moved by Alderman Wills seconded by
Alderman Morrissey passed.

Resol. rel. to the
Communication
from Town Major,
and Quarter Master
Generals Office

On Motion order of the day is
suspended to permit Alderman Richey to introduce
a resolution relative to Communications this day
submitted and read from Town Major and Quarter
Master Generals Department.

when following resolution is introduced
Moved by Alderman Richey seconded by Alderman Cogswell.

On Hearing read the Letter from
the Office of Town Major purporting loss of Soldiers
killing at the late Fire and believing that the loss
on that occasion much exceeded the amount stated
by the Quarter Master General and as slight evidence
of the appreciation by this Council of the valuable
assistance of the Military.

Resolved that a Cheque for
the sum of Twenty five pounds be forwarded to the
Lieutenant General Commanding by His Worship
the Mayor to reimburse the Soldiers engaged at the
late Fire for the loss sustained. passed unanimously.

On Motion order of the day is suspended
and the report of Special Committee relative to purchase of
Dr. Averys property near Ordnance is next taken up and
read.

Report Special
Committee re. to
Dr. Averys property

Halifax N.S. September 26th 1859

Your Committee appointed to confer with
Dr. Avery to know what he would take for the Ordnance lot
and ascertain what amount can be obtained from the
citizens by subscription towards the amount. report as
follows:

That on consulting with Dr. Avery he informed
them that the lowest price he was willing to take was
four thousand five hundred pounds. That they there-
fore draw up a heading for a subscription list, and laid
before some of the principal persons whose property would be
benefitted by the lot being kept open. That the persons
most interested only subscribed one hundred pounds
and two