

have power to appoint a committee, consisting of three members of said Board, to be denominated the "Finance Committee," and to fill all vacancies which may happen in said committee by new appointments, from time to time. Said committee in addition to the ordinary duties of the Finance Committee of said Board, shall have the power as hereinafter specified.

SEC. 2. The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall be Clerk of the Finance Committee, after the expiration of six months from the passage of this act, and during said intermediate period of six months, the said committee shall have power to appoint a Clerk, who, during the time that he shall be actually employed, shall receive a salary of two hundred dollars a month, which amount shall be understood to cover all expenses for books, stationery, lights, fuel, and contingencies, which may be necessary for the use of said committee, and shall be paid out of the General Fund, upon demand on the Treasury of said city and county of San Francisco, after being first approved by the committee, and allowed and registered by the Auditor, like other similar demands.

SEC. 3. The Clerk of said committee shall keep a record of its proceedings with the names of witnesses examined, and a substantial account of the evidence taken. It shall be the duty of the Sheriff, or any Constable, or Policeman, of said city and county, to execute the lawful process and orders of the said committee. The said committee may visit any of the public offices when, and as often, as they think proper, and make their examinations and investigations therein, without hindrance. In the exercise of its functions, the concurrence of two members of the committee shall be deemed sufficient.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the committee to proceed forthwith to examine and settle all the accounts and transactions of the Treasurer of said city and county, and to make out and state two distinct accounts, the one embracing his transactions from the first Monday in October, 1855, to the first day of July, 1856, and the other embracing those of the period from the said first day of July to the time of said settlement; and the said committee shall ascertain, determine, and state the true balance of said accounts.

SEC. 5. After the settlement of the accounts and transactions of the present Treasurer of said city and county, the said committee shall proceed in like manner to investigate and settle the transactions and accounts of the Treasurers, Auditors, Controllers, and Tax Collectors of the city and of the county of San Francisco, who were in office during the two terms next preceding those of the present incumbent, and also of the present Auditor and President of the Board of Supervisors.

SEC. 6. The said committee shall hereafter, as often as may be required, by order of the Board of Supervisors, investigate the transactions and accounts of all officers having the collection, custody, or disbursement of public money, or having the power to approve, allow, or audit demands on the treasury, and report thereon to the Board of Supervisors, and for the purpose, shall continue to have and exercise all the powers granted in this act. But nothing in this act contained, shall be construed to relieve the Auditor, President of the Board of Supervisors, or other officers, from any of the duties and obligations now imposed on them by law.

SEC. 7. The said committee, and the Clerk, shall have free access to any records, books, and papers in all public offices. And said committee shall have the same power as courts of record, to administer oaths and affirmations, to examine witnesses, and compel their attendance before them, by subpoena, and attachment for contempt, in case of their refusal to appear or to testify when lawfully required, and shall have the like power to punish as for contempt, any officer, ex-officer, or other person, who shall refuse or neglect, when required in writing, by said committee, to exhibit any official records, books or papers in his custody, or to explain the same, or any official transaction of his own, or of any other officer so far as he may be able.

SEC. 8. If, from the examination made by the Finance Committee, in pursuance of the powers granted by this act, it shall appear that a misdemeanor in office, or a defalcation has been committed by any officer of said city and county, whose accounts