

PRICE ONE CENT.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1890.

PRICE ONE CENT.

LAST EDITION WHO HAS IT?

\$800,000 Gilt-Edged Securities Taken from the Sixth National Bank.

United States Commissioner Hepburn Closes the Doors.

Something for the Board of Directors to Explain.

Excited Crowds of Depositors Outside the Building.

The Lenox Hill and Equitable Banks Possibly Involved.

A most startling condition of affairs was brought to light this morning by United States Bank Commissioner A. B. Hepburn, who took possession of the Sixth National Bank, at Thirty-fourth street and Broadway, and was busy examining its accounts all day.

It has been discovered that the new President of the bank, P. J. Claassen, who went into office only two days ago, has since attempted to dispose of \$622,000 of the bank's securities, consisting of gilt-edged bonds of a market value of over \$800,000.

All but \$200,000 of these bonds have been sold, and where the money has gone is yet unknown.

Mr. Claassen represents the syndicate which last week bought out the interest of Charles H. Leland, the former President of the bank, and assumed control on Tuesday.

THIS TOLD THE TALE.
This morning the bank was closed and the following notice written on a sheet of note-paper was tacked to the door:
New York, Jan. 29, '90.
I have taken possession of this bank as United States Bank Examiner in behalf of the Comptroller of the Currency at Washington, D. C., who will give such further orders as may be necessary. A careful examination is being made of the assets and liabilities.
A. B. HEPBURN,
United States Bank Commissioner.
PANIC-STRIKEN DEPOSITORS.
The doors of the bank were surrounded by a crowd of panic-stricken depositors all the morning, and very little information could be gleaned from the Bank Commissioner and his assistants, who were at work inside, as to the actual situation.

At 11.30 o'clock Commissioner Hepburn issued the following preliminary statement:

EXAMINER HEPBURN'S STATEMENT.
"Mr. Leland sold 1,035 shares of stock, a controlling interest, to the parties present in control of the bank, at \$50, and gave them possession Jan. 22. On Jan. 23, \$622,000 par value of high-priced bonds belonging to the bank were delivered to Pell, Wallace & Co., and a receipt taken reading as follows:

"Received, New York, Jan. 23, 1890, of the Sixth National Bank, of New York, the following named bonds, to be held for account of said bank and accounted for to its President as he may demand."
"There was no entry on the books of the bank to show any disposition of the bonds. The stock-book called for the original amount."

"I found the \$622,000 bonds gone and demanded their restoration, or funds to represent their market value. I went with the President, P. J. Claassen, to Pell, Wallace & Co., who said about \$400,000 of the bonds had been sold and checks sent to the bank, and that the remaining bonds were with different brokers for sale, and that they would get and return them."
"They brought to me \$201,000 of the bonds. The checks offered for the balance could not be accepted."
"The above, together with other matters affecting the bank, rendered the temporary closing of the bank imperative. If the gentlemen in charge carry out the promises or assurances given yesterday the Comptroller will undoubtedly reopen the bank."

"I do not think depositors will lose anything. The object in taking possession was to insure that. Gentlemen, that is all."

THE LAW ENFORCED.
In addition to this Mr. Hepburn stated that the situation was further complicated by the fact that one of the new directors had yet qualified by taking the oath of office as required by law.

PROBABLE INDICEMENTS.
United States District Attorney Mitchell has been informed of the facts, and under certain circumstances will take prompt measures in the case.

The Sixth National Bank was organized in 1864, and last week, when Mr. Leland, the President, disposed of his interest to

the syndicate which has been in control for the last two days, the Board of Directors is consisted of the following:
A. H. Leland, C. Fotheringham, John J. Dombleday, William J. Taylor, Jr., and C. F. Leland.

THE NEW DIRECTORS.
The new Board consists of P. J. Claassen, a stock-broker, of 45 Broadway; D. M. Hopley, James Jourdan, President of the Kings County Elevated road, J. Kenneth Watson and H. T. Cutter, who recently bought out the drug-store of Alexander Hindustan in Broadway.

THE BANK'S CONDITION.
The bank was regarded as one of the soundest financial concerns in the city, and had a very large surplus, according to its last report.

ITS STOCK RECENTLY SOLD AS HIGH AS \$800 A SHARE IN THE MARKET, BUT IT NEVER SOLD ANY HIGHER.

CASHIER COLSON'S DISCOVERY.
Andrew D. Colson, who has been cashier of the bank for twenty-two years, was the first to discover any irregularities had been going on, his suspicions being aroused by seeing the receipt which is mentioned in Commissioner Hepburn's statement. This was on Tuesday afternoon.

SECURITIES TAMPERED WITH.
"I at once saw that the securities of the bank had been tampered with, and without saying a word to any one I went right off to find Mr. Camp, the manager of the Clearing House.

PROMPT ACTION TAKEN.
"I met him at his house at 6 o'clock and told him what I had discovered, and he thought it was a matter for prompt action."

"I had no definite knowledge that any of the securities were gone, but I suspected that something was wrong."
"We went immediately to the house of Bank Commissioner Hepburn, though it was late at night, and roused him up, and yesterday he began his investigations with the result which he has just stated."

"How do accounts stand now?"
"I cannot tell, because I do not know whether the directors will fulfill their promises or not. They have promised to pay in \$150,000 in cash today, and if they do this there will be no trouble about going on."

DEPOSITORS MAY BE PAID.
Mr. Hepburn confirmed this statement, and said that in any case he did not think that the depositors would lose anything.

"The reason why I cannot count in the checks given by Pell, Wallace & Co., are that they are most of them absolutely worthless, kiting checks, and many of them uncollected."

"What were the securities which were taken to Pell, Wallace & Co.?"
"That I am not at liberty to state at present. It is sufficient to say that they were all of the highest value, A No. 1 securities."

"Who got the money that was paid for them?"
"That is what I am trying to find out. The motive for making this enormous sale of the bank's securities is yet a mystery."

There have been several meetings of the Clearing-House Committee since yesterday, but they have not yet been able to arrive at any more definite conclusions in regard to the suspicious transactions of the new Board of Directors.

MORE MYSTERY.
It was reported that more than \$200,000 in checks offered by Pell, Wallace & Co. for the balance of the bonds sold had come back to the Sixth National Bank this morning, which makes the disappearance of the proceeds of the sales more mysterious than ever.

HEPBURN WAS LUCKY.
Commissioner Hepburn told a reporter of THE EVENING WORLD this morning that he regarded himself as very fortunate in getting back the \$201,000 bonds which had not been sold. In another day they would probably all have been gone.

Whether they were sold at their full market value or not cannot be ascertained. The extreme haste with which the whole transaction was rushed through, and the fact that no record of the sale appears in any of the bank's books, are regarded as extremely suspicious circumstances.

TWO OTHER BANKS.
It is conceded that the members of the new directory of the Sixth National Bank are interested in both the Lenox Hill Bank, at 1248 Third avenue, and the Equitable Bank, in Twenty-eighth street, near Broadway. The latter was reorganized last month, and was formerly known as the Knickerbocker Bank.

Both these banks are State institutions, and P. J. Claassen is the Vice-President of the Equitable.

It was rumored this morning that both banks were involved in the difficulty of the Sixth National.

PRESIDENT TALLMAN'S STATEMENT.
President Tallman, of the Equitable Bank, said this morning:

"This bank will not close up and is in no way affected by the difficulties of the Sixth National."

"Some of its directors are interested in our bank, but none of them, or all of them together, have a controlling interest. This institution is perfectly solid."

NO RUN ON THE EQUITABLE.
The Equitable is a sort of private family bank, and has, it is said, very few depositors yet. There was no run on the bank this morning.

As the Lenox Hill Bank the officers stated that there was no danger that it would close. It was not affected by the interest held by the stockholders in the Sixth National Bank.

Ex-President Charles H. Leland, who got \$620 a share for his stock in the Sixth National, has received his money, it is said.

He was at his home in Madison avenue this morning, but when informed that

his caller was a reporter declined positively to come downstairs and see him. His son, who was also one of the old directors, refused to say anything about the bank matters.

How Mr. Leland managed to get such an exorbitant price for his stock, which was considered high at \$60, is one of the deepest mysteries of the recent series of transactions.

None of the new directors are known in financial circles, and old bankers had never even heard the names of most of them.

AMONG THE EXCITED CROWD.
All sorts of rumors were current among the anxious and excited depositors who gathered around the bank windows this morning and peered in at the army of clerks busy behind their desks.

A sensation was started by a man who said he had heard on good authority early this morning that the President of the bank had gone to the vaults the moment he got control, and taking everything he could lay his hands upon, had disappeared. Many believed it.

Commissioner Hepburn said that so far as he knew all the directors were in town and that none of them had shown any anxiety to make themselves scarce.

QUIET IN WALL STREET.
The Wall street markets were not affected by the bank trouble uptown. On the contrary, stocks advanced, and this, too, in the face of sales for London account. The belief that the bank difficulties will be purely local is the reason assigned by the brokers for the comparative indifference shown by Wall street under the circumstances.

BIG GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.
It is claimed by the new directors that they are backed by several important United States Government contracts, among them contracts for dredging on the Pacific slope and the dredging for the Harlem canal.

Acker was recognized, and he immediately moved that the bill now have its second and third reading. One objection would have been sufficient to defeat this motion.

Sheehan, the Democratic leader, immediately objected to the third reading of the bill, but consented to its second reading.

There was no objection to this, and then the debate began. Senator Fassett came over to the House and sat beside Mr. Fish, the Republican leader, whom he prompted and coached all during the discussion.

It was evident, even before a word was said, that there was every expectancy of a bitter fight.

There were boasts that Platt's names would be played, the Platt men suddenly springing a motion to have an evening session.

It was rushed through before the intent was fully understood, and then as soon as the Assembly adjourned the bill was rushed over to the Senate.

When the Senate met, Mr. Erwin moved that the bill be sent to a conference committee.

Cantor, the Democratic leader, objected. He wished the bill to be passed as it came from the Assembly, and he had no principle in the contest.

Erwin said that the Senate could do as it pleased, and take a recess till 8 o'clock, and then the Conference Committee might report and act on the bill to-night.

The debate now became general, but was not very interesting, as it was almost wholly on the interpretation of the rules as to their effect on the future course of the bill.

There were also speeches about the dignity of the Senate and the question whether the Senate should give up the Platt names or try and make the Assembly accept them.

Mayor Grant, who has steadfastly refused to be interviewed concerning Boss Platt's name, was very interesting on the subject, since it was announced that the Republican leader had put his finger in the pie, to-day consenting to give his opinion on this subject.

"I regret exceedingly that politics should have been dragged into the fair, but there was never any intention on my part that politics should have anything to do with it, nor has the faintest suspicion been cast upon the Committee or in connection with this subject."

The Fair should be held aloof from politics, and to my mind, the people will not tolerate the injection of politics into this great public enterprise.

The charge that a number of Tammany men are on the Committee is a false statement, it is hardly worthy of a denial.

There are certainly not more than three of the latter who are on the Committee, and if you take every incorporator or any other power should feel called on to throw the weight of the hundred gentlemen of the Committee into the scale, they were not capable and trustworthy enough without additions of their number, to care for the management of this Fair.

The local authorities of the city, where the bill was submitted to them, were very loyal in suggesting any amendments, having all the while in mind the credit of the Fair, and they have been to the Committee named, on account of their high standing in this community."

Chamberlain Croker, too, had something to say about the charge of secrecy. Platt, that there was an attempt on the part of Tammany Hall to control the Fair.

"The best refutation of that charge," he said, "is a comparison of the Tammany Hall Committee list with the list of proposed incorporators."

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PLATT LOST.

Revolt in the Assembly Against His World's Fair Boss-ship.

Eighteen Republican Bolters Join the Democrats.

The 22 New Names Stricken Out and the Bill Passed.

Gibbs and Fish Among the Rebels— Senate Conference Ordered.

(SPECIAL TO THE EVENING WORLD.)
ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 30.—When the Senate bill for the World's Fair, with the Platt amendments, arrived in the Assembly this morning, Mr. Acker, of Steubens, and Mr. Sheehan, of Buffalo, both jumped to their feet.

Acker was recognized, and he immediately moved that the bill now have its second and third reading. One objection would have been sufficient to defeat this motion.

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The charge that a number of Tammany men are on the Committee is a false statement, it is hardly worthy of a denial.

There are certainly not more than three of the latter who are on the Committee, and if you take every incorporator or any other power should feel called on to throw the weight of the hundred gentlemen of the Committee into the scale, they were not capable and trustworthy enough without additions of their number, to care for the management of this Fair.

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MR. PLATT'S DREAM.

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SUES FOR TEN THOUSAND.

Pretty Mrs. Mann's Accusations Against Landlord Huggins.

Broker Batchelder's Fatal Fall in the Darkness.

POST-OFFICE SAFE ROBBED.

Jamaica Visited by Expert Burglars This Morning.

BITTEN BY A MADMAN.

COFFEE MADE OF PASTE.

Fraudulent but Not Hurler Beans Poisoned on the Public.

Three European Steamships Arrive, After Perilous, Tempestuous Voyages.

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ON HER KNEES IN COURT.

Assunta Bocuto Creates a Sensation on the Witness Stand.

Called on the Murdered Woman's Spirit to Prove Her Innocence.

"Dio mio io sono innocente!" With tears streaming down her cheeks, her eyes and hands lifted towards heaven, Assunta Bocuto fell on her knees on the witness stand, in Part III., Court of General Sessions, this morning, and prayed for supernatural aid to show her innocence of the murder of Anelia Verrillo.

When first led to the stand the witness told her story in a straightforward but subdued manner, and her soft, musical voice, instead of attracting sympathy for her, but as her narrative progressed the scenes attending the horrible homicide came back to her almost. Falling upon her knees, she called on the spirit of the murdered woman to appear and proclaim her innocent.

The scene was intensely dramatic, and the crowded court-room was instantly thrown into confusion. In vain Dr. Ph. Dolini, the interpreter, His Honor and Attorney Keane endeavored to quiet her, and not until the wretched woman was nearly exhausted could her examination be proceeded by the court.

Assunta said that on the morning of the murder, she, her husband, Antonio Bocuto and Giuseppe Sciononi were out searching for a room in the city.

They found one, the rent of which was \$325 a year. The woman who owned it wanted \$100 down. Antonio said to the witness:

"Give her \$100 of our money."
The witness said, in an aside, to her brother: "Go up to my aunt (Mrs. Scherzazo) and get her \$100."

Her brother went and returned, saying to her that Mrs. Scherzazo refused to give the money for the rent of the room. She, followed by her husband and brother, went up to Mrs. Scherzazo's Mrs. Scherzazo, Petronella Perce and Anna Hat Marchese were there.

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