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PRICE ONE CENT.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1894.

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# LAST EDITION.

## MAKING WAR ON TRINITY.

The Building Department Hot After that Corporation's Unsafe Tenements.

## VERITABLE TINDER BOXES.

How the Tenants Have Managed to Exist is a Mystery to the Authorities.

## ALL SANITARY LAWS DEFIED.

Many of the Buildings, It is Said, Are Likely to Be Condemned.

Now it is the Building Department that is hot after the Trinity Corporation on account of the unsanitary as well as the unsafe condition of its tenements.

For weeks inspectors have been at work, and it is estimated that several additional weeks will elapse before the Cruger and other trustees will probably hear a story of which they never dreamed.

Heretofore the Trinity Corporation has had nobody to fight but the Board of Health. Years ago the trustees locked horns with the latter officials. Complaints made about the unsanitary condition of the tenements were at first unheeded. Then the matter was taken to the courts, and in nearly every case the Board of Health won.

The Board of Health, practically at the suggestion of the Trinity Corporation, is continuing its work. "The Evening World" complains during the past week being made against nearly every tenement that Trinity owns. How the tenants manage to exist in most of the buildings is something which even the health officials can scarcely understand.

But until to-day the health officials, the Trinity trustees and the outside public knew that the Building Department was also preparing for a crusade. Neither did any one know that the Rev. Dr. Parkhurst and the other members of the Vigilance League contemplated an investigation of their own. Such, however, is the fact.

From the reports already received at the Building Department it appears that fire-escapes are lacking in a majority of instances; that the buildings themselves, being old frame buildings, are in a state of decay; that the buildings are in a state of decay; that the buildings are in a state of decay.

It is also true that the buildings themselves take up more space on the public square than is considered good for the public safety. That on some lots two and three buildings have been erected, and that there are stables on some of them, while human beings sleep overhead.

Col. Cruger and some of the other trustees were amended, making it a misdemeanor, but some of them may be interested in, how a religious organization, having an annual rental of over \$200,000 a year, could permit such conditions to exist.

"I am not yet in a position to say what we have found regarding the Corporation property," said Deputy Building Superintendent. "The Corporation will say it is that from the moment our newspaper was called to the matter by the newspaper, we have been investigating."

"Unfortunately, we cannot proceed rapidly, as the Board of Health, as well as our own people, are making an investigation while attending to their other duties."

"The tenement being properly furnished with fire escapes. There are undoubtedly many old houses, and some of them may be condemned. If so, they will come down. We will look out for alterations which may be made in the future, and we will see that the authority of this Department is maintained."

"One of the best places the Building Department could visit is the row of houses on the north side of Spring street, between Varick and Hudson streets, as well as the adjoining houses on Varick street."

"There they can find evidence enough that Trinity nearly every law has been set at defiance. With one single exception they are all frame buildings, built the time when the little village of Greenwich was as big almost as New York itself. The exception is a four-story brick tenement occupied by eight families and many boarders. In the center of the yard in the rear is a three-story brick building, the ground floor of which is used as a stable. The two floors above are living quarters, and are occupied. At the rear of the same lot is another three-story brick building used as a carpenter shop. Dying stalls, a washhouse and a turner, making three buildings on a lot which is only a few feet wide."

"On the northwest corner of Varick and Spring streets stands the oldest frame house in New York City. It was a shaky affair thirteen years ago, when Mr. Dempsey rented it at \$700 a year from Trinity. It is now a laundry, and Trinity seems to be partial to China, as an several of the latter carry on the laundry business in the basements."

# EX-ALDERMAN HELD UP THEY PAID TRIBUTE.

## Hugo Schmidt Robbed by Three Footpads at Sunnyside.

## They Threatened to Kill Him if He Gave the Alarm.

## Made Good Their Escape with \$550, Leaving His Watch.

LONG ISLAND CITY, L. I., Dec. 18.—A highway robbery was reported to the police of this city early this morning. The victim is an ex-Alderman Hugo Schmidt, who resides at Sunnyside, a suburb of Long Island City.

About 1:40 o'clock Mr. Schmidt was walking a long Skillman avenue, and when within two hundred feet of the Long Island Railroad tracks three men appeared in front of him. Two of them were of medium build and had their hands pulled over their eyes. The third man, who was tall and of kcht complexion, wore a light overcoat, He asked Mr. Schmidt the time.

Schmidt pulled out his watch and answered that it was 1:40 o'clock. Just as he was about to put his watch back in his pocket, the small man grabbed hold of his arms. The big man then began to punch Schmidt, and nearly beat him into insensibility, while the two others held him.

Then the big man told him that if he did not keep quiet, he would be killed. During the night ex-Alderman Schmidt tried to vainly to get away.

The big man searched Mr. Schmidt's vest. In an inner pocket he discovered had \$50 in \$10 bills and one \$50 bill. The big man took Mr. Schmidt's watch, and putting it in his pocket, began to count the bills. He was satisfied and returned the money to him. Then he returned the watch to him, and the three men disappeared.

With this money Schmidt went to a bank and had the money changed into a check for \$550. He then went to a hotel and had a room for the night.

Next night the Star Athletic Club gave a boxing exhibition, and the three thieves were seen in the audience. They were seen to rob some one who visited the Club's show.

The Commission will lay out a plan for the big city, to be submitted to the Legislature for action. Mr. Page is an earnest advocate of consolidation, and only a few days ago took issue with an Anti-Consolidationist on the question of future rents. Mr. Page is a prominent wholesale druggist.

## N. Y. A. C. MINSTREL SHOW.

## Burnt Cork to Succeed Grand Opera at the Metropolitan.

The New York Athletic Club's annual minstrel show is always a big event, and surprises are in order. Nevertheless, there was something of an exclamation which must outdo his previous efforts when it was announced that this year's entertainment, the fifth of the series, would be held in the Metropolitan Opera House. A month ago the seats were placed on sale, and to-night, when the doors are opened, there will be little seating capacity left, but that which will be absent, instead there will be a full house.

## FIRE IN 22D REGT. ARMORY.

## It Does About \$3,000 Worth of Damage.

An over-heated fire caused a fire at 10:45 this morning in the Twenty-second Regiment Armory, Sixty-eighth street and Boulevard. About \$3,000 damage was done to the building and \$1,000 to contents.

## Three Persons Burned to Death.

GARDNER, Me., Dec. 15.—Anna Materson's house on Windsor street was destroyed by fire yesterday, and Mrs. Samuel Ready, Millie Polson, aged seven, and George Polson, aged four, were burned to death. The little girl was rescued from the burning house by Frank Greenleaf, but died before medical assistance could be summoned. It is thought the woman, while intoxicated, used a lamp.

## Many Miners Were In Peril.

SEATTLE, Dec. 15.—Fire broke out in the Oregon Improvement Company's Newcastle coal mine at Coal Creek, two miles from this city yesterday. Over one hundred and twenty-five men were at work in the mine, and had a narrow escape. Coal Creek was damaged and turned into a lake. The loss will amount to \$60,000.

## ST. LOUIS ELECTION FRAUDS.

## Charges Result in the Finding of Fifteen Indictments.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 15.—The Grand Jury, after investigating a number of charges of fraud growing out of the recent elections, has handed down fifteen indictments. Circuit Attorney Zachris refuses to make public the names of those indicted for the specific charges against them. It developed late yesterday afternoon that three bench warrants had been issued for a number of persons charged with election frauds.

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# TRACING THE \$15,000.

## Goff Questions Reppenhagen About the Money Received from Creeden.

## CAPT. STRAUSS CALLED UPON.

## He Was Asked About His Bank Account and Told to Send for His Wife.

Police Capt. William Strauss, of the East Sixty-seventh street station, was called to the witness stand this morning by Mr. Goff, counsel to the Lexow Committee.

Every one expected a big sensation to follow, for rumors have been rife during the past twenty-four hours that the Captain had confessed that he had paid to secure his promotion.

The Captain is a big, broad-shouldered man, with a slightly bald head and a heavy under jaw. He wears a dark mustache, with broad wings at each side.

"I want to ask you a few questions this morning, Captain," began Mr. Goff, "and first, what is your wife's name?"

"Barbara," replied the witness.

Q. Have you a bank account? A. No, sir. I had a small account in the Bowers Savings Bank about seven or eight years ago.

Q. How do you account for the money? A. No, sir. I don't know.

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Q. Did you ever apply for promotion? A. No, sir. I wanted a special detail to the East River, under Capt. Gaslin, since retired. The only money he had ever received was \$10 from the manager of the Maine Steamship Company, for a Christmas present.

After 1881 he was detailed to the White Star pier, and got \$10 a week from the company for his services. He received a charge and a reprimand from the board of the Maine Steamship Company, for a Christmas present.

This continued, the witness said, all the time that Capt. Schmittberger was in charge, and afterwards Capt. Thorne, who was succeeded by Capt. Allaire.

Q. Did you give any one any of this money? A. Yes, sir. I gave Ward Man Gannon \$25 a month, and only kept \$10 for myself.

Q. How did you give it? A. I gave it to the Captain, and he gave it to the man.

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