MAYOR LOW SURPRISES CITY HALL FOLK BY BEING EARLY.

New Chief Magistrate Enters the Building by the Front Not the Private Side Door More Than an Hour Ahead of Time Expected.

Mayor Low walked into the Mayor's office in City Hall at 9.15 this morning.

The new office hours are 9 to 5, but it had been understood that the Mayor personally was to make his appearance at 10.30. So on the first day the new Mayor was one and a quarter hours ahead of time.

Mr. Low was smiling pleasantly. He nodded to a messenger with a cordial "Good-morning."

He then walked through three rooms to his office, not taking advantage of the side door.

"This is to be no tea party administration," was a remark made by ex-Mayor Van Wyck to some friends then after the exchange of Mayors yesterday.

Messengers at the Mayor's office have already received a hint that the rooms are to be kept free from crowds of office-seekers, and that the office hours are to be observed strictly. In other words, business will close at 5 o'clock.

Mayor Low came in dressed in a business suit and derby hat, freshly shaved and shoes shined.

Newsboys Make a Call.

Soon after the doors of the office opened some young bootblacks and newsboys called to see Mr. Reyonlds, the Mayor's private secretary, who has been connected with the University Settlement. The boys were told to come again.

President Jacob A. Cantor of the Borough of Manhattan arrived at his office at 9.30 this morning. He said that a mistake had been made by the newspapers.

"This mistake," he said, "was made about the alleged scandal or fraud that I was supposed to suspect in certain departments. It is my intention to have new sets of books opened in the various departments that come under the control of the President of the Borough now, and with that idea in mind I ordered the old books of all such departments sealed up yesterday. There is no suspicion of fraud or scandal that I have heard of in any of these departments."

"If anybody expects to find the evidence of wrong-doing written down in the city's books he does not know how things are done nowadays," said Comptroller Grout this morning.

This was the new Comptroller's comment on the report that the books of former President of the Board of Public Improvements Maurice F. Holahan have been sealed by the order of Mr. Cantor.

Mr. Grout adds that Mr. Cantor has nothing to do with Mr. Holahan's books except as a member of the Board of Estimate.

Holahan Calls on Comptroller.

Holahan himself called on Comptroller Grout this morning and spent an hour with him. After leaving the conference Holahan said:

"I think the books of any public official should be examined. I am perfectly willing that my books, or rather the books of the Board of Public Improvements, should be carefully scrutinized."

Holahan said his purpose in calling on the new Comptroller was to find places for the employees of the Board of Public Improvements, who are protected by the civil service.

"After that I'll look for a job myself," added Mr. Holahan.

Comptroller Grout expects to find places also for the best men in the Board of Expert Accountants, which is to be dispensed with.

Job for John DeWitt Warner.

Mayor Low, abiding by his announced policy of publicity, saw all newspapermen at 11.30 this morning. He announced two appointments to the Municipal Art Commission.

John DeWitt Warner, layman, to succeed Charles T. Barney.

Henry Rutgers Marshall, architect, to succeed Charles F. McKim.

The appointees hold office for three years, but draw no salary. Both were recommended by the Fine Arts Federation.

Mayor Low has named his confidential secretaries, George L. Archer, of No. 136 West Fifty-third street, and John R. Smalley, of No. 290 Saratoga avenue, Brooklyn.

"Really, I have done nothing at all yet," said the new Mayor smiling. "My time largely has been taken up receiving the greetings of friends who have called.

"They don't seem to be office-seekers," somebody suggested.

"No," said Mayor Low, "we have that to be thankful for."

Comes In with No Flourish.

No other Mayor in recent years has come in with so little flourish. No delegations and no seekers of appointments called on Mr. Low during the morning. One newspaper man said to him:

"Your coming in is far different from that of Mayor Strong. The room was filled that morning with salesmen who wanted to know what to do Sunday."

Mayor Low turned in his chair and looked at Mayor Strong's picture hanging against the wall.

"An excellent likeness," said Mr. Low. "I was just looking at it when you came in." He paused, smiled and said:

"I don't think I shall be able to serve any tea afternoons."

It was reported during the morning that Mayor Low in his first official act exercised his authority and influence upon the rights of the Municipal Art Commission by ordering the picture of Mayor Strong hung in the Mayor's office in place of that of Mayor Fernando Wood. This was wrong. The Mayor got the permission of the Art Commission to hang the picture as he pleased. It is not decided where it will be placed.

Peaceful Mayor's Office.

Among those who greeted Mayor Low during the morning was James J. Egan, the retiring President of the borough.

"This is very peaceful, said Mr. Egan, looking around the room, also in absence of office-seekers was more noticeable.

"And I want it to continue," responded Mr. Low.

Old-time politicians who have seen administrations come and go over and over again, saw that the spirit of this civil service reform Saturday Day quiet the fusion Mayor came in with him.

"What causes it? Well, I'll tell you," said one man. "Low made his most important appointments before he took his seat. Another thing, he made the crowd by declaring that he would not even refer to the department heads any application for minor offices that might be sent to him.

At 12.30 Mayor Low went out to lunch with Dr. John McGaw Woodbury, the Street-Cleaning Commissioner. He will lunch at the Downtown Club on Fine street, except when busy, and will then go to the Hardware Club.

JEROME IS NOW IN COMMAND.

District-Attorney Jerome and his staff appeared in a body in the private room of Justice Leventritt, of the Supreme Court, at 10 o'clock to be sworn in.

Justice Giegerich was not present, and after waiting some time Judge Jerome said that Justice Leventritt would do as well.

Justice Leventritt recited the oath of office solemnly, and District-Attorney Jerome promised to support the Constitution and to perform his duties faithfully, and declared that he had paid nothing and promised nothing to get votes for his election.

At the close Justice Leventritt extended his hand in congratulation, adding solemnly:

"I hope you will realize the highest of my hopes and ambitions."

All but Assistant District-Attorney Schurman and Willis Munro, appointed Deputy Assistant, had left.

The District-Attorney hurried back to his office.

New Sign on the Door.

District-Attorney Jerome arrived at his office at 9.30 o'clock. The sign painter who had gone there early was just leaving. He had erased the name of Eugene A. Philbin from the glass panel of the door and had just painted in its place:

WILLIAM T. JEROME

The new District-Attorney was smoking furiously on a cigarette. He threw up the top of his roll desk, grabbed up a bunch of mail, ripped open the envelopes with a penknife, lighted another cigarette, blew out a cloud of smoke and said he was ready for business.

"I am going to be my own press agent," said he to an Evening World reporter. "All information concerning my office will come through me. I shall not allow my assistants to talk about office matters to the members of the press. But I shall not suppress any news to which the public is entitled. I have given a new room to the reporters and I shall afford them every opportunity to do their work."

District-Attorney Jerome's first official act was to reappoint John Redmond official messenger of his office. After that the District-Attorney in company with Assistant Schurman went to the Supreme Court to take the oath of office.

When the District-Attorney had returned to his office after taking the oath he summoned his assistants and deputy assistants. All reported except Assistant District-Attorney Osborne and Deputy Assistant Ely.

District-Attorney Jerome made a short address upon the nature of the official oath and distributed the blanks which his helpers were to fill out and sign. Then all went before Judge Foster, of the Court of General Sessions, in his chambers and were sworn. Mr. Osborne and Mr. Ely will take the oath later.

District-Attorney Jerome talked to the reporters at the Criminal Courts building but he did not outline anything in the nature of a policy. That was startling, whereat there may be some disappointment in certain quarters.

He was cool and dignified and put in evidence no portents of strenuous axe work.

"There is nothing I can say as to my policy in the abstract," he said in response to a question. "Individual cases differ and require different treatment."

What Is Expected of Assistants.

"My assistants have all been sworn in and the office is in proper shape to begin work. When I selected them I told them what I expected of them. I expect them to have patience, courtesy and to work harder than I work myself. I shall make no favorites. It's going to be our office and not my office.

"In this way I think we can keep abreast of the work. As I have said before, I think it is very necessary in the interests of justice that all the small cases should be disposed of within two weeks after the commission of the offense. There are courts enough, I believe, and we shall try to keep up with the rush."

He was asked if he considered it the province of the District-Attorney to criticise the Police Department.

"Responsibility for the misconduct of the Police Department does not lie with the District-Attorney's office," he answered, "but any misconduct on the part of a police official which is brought to my attention will be acted upon."

The District-Attorney has a large staff of competent detectives.

The Patrick murder trial is the first case that Mr. Jerome will have to handle. It comes up for trial Jan. 13.

The District-Attorney reappointed James William McKenna, who was Chief Clerk of the office during the regime of Mr. Philbin.

PARTRIDGE AT HEADQUARTERS.

Police Commissioner Partridge reached Police Headquarters shortly after 9 o'clock this morning and went to work as though he had been at the job right along.

Every idly expected that the Commissioner would turn up at 9 o'clock sharp, and they were all on the lookout for him. Just as the clock struck 9 a joker in Mott street blew a bugle call of "Attention," and the horrible suspicion flashed through the minds of the waiting policemen that the military regime had begun in earnest.

But it was a false alarm. The Commissioner was not in sight and did not arrive for ten minutes.

He walked in through the Mulberry street entrance, saluting the officer on duty there and went straight to his room. Outside the door stood Policeman George Glass with six service stripes on his sleeves. He was transferred from the Steamboat Squad last night by the Commissioner. He is not new to the business of guarding that door, for he held this post in the days of Superintendent Murray, and later in Commissioner Parker's time.

When the reporters went in to see if the Commissioner had anything to say to-day he laughed and shook his head.

"I'm not going to talk through my hat all the time," he said. "Give me a chance to do something, and then I'll have something to tell you. But I have this little speech to make to you. I appreciate the fact that I am a public servant, and that the facts concerning the administration of this department belong to the public. I realize that there is no better way of letting the public know what I am doing than through the newspapers.

"But the public knows well and you understand that there are certain things regarding crimes that cannot be made public at once. When a fact has been accomplished it should and will be given to the public."

After this he settled right down to work.

Col. Thurston arrived at Headquarters three-quarters of an hour later than his chief. They immediately went into conference. After it was over Col. Partridge got into a cab and drove to the meeting of the Board of Health of which he is an ex-officio member.

HARD HOURS FOR ALL BUT GROUT.

Comptroller Grout's announcement, "Hereafter office hours from 9 to 5," was one of the hardest shocks of the glad New Year. So this morning interest centred in the office of the new Comptroller.

Promptly at 9 o'clock things began to wake up. Most of the subordinates in the long line of offices were at work by 8.30. The sweeping and dusting and moving of books were wonderful to behold. By 9 o'clock everybody, from the Deputy Comptroller to the smallest office boy, was on hand looking wise and ready.

But Comptroller Grout was not there. Slowly the hands of the clock moved, but still no Comptroller.

"Isn't Comptroller Grout here?" an Evening World reporter asked at 9.15.

"No," said one of the employes.

"Don't the office hours begin at 9 o'clock sharp?"

"Humph! That's for the rest of us," was the quick reply.

STEWART CUTS OFF 75 OFFICIAL HEADS.

NEW HEAD OF BUILDING DEPARTMENT STARTS IN.

Peter J. Stewart, new head of the Building Department, began work to-day by dismissing seventy-five of the employees of the former administration. He declined to-day to make public reasons for the dismissals, but it was said that he was acting in accordance with the rights he had to make a clean sweep in the head of the department and in the civil service, and to demand re-employment should there be places for them.

The chances of some of these dismissed to get back Mr. Stewart said were very slim.

Among those so dismissed were John Mason, who was Superintendent of Buildings under Mr. Wallace, and W. J. Nolan, who served before the Mazet investigation. Nolan was the department in charge of the Tenement-House Commission. Mr. Stewart said he had assigned to duty in the Bronx and in Queens more than a dozen men who had served previously in the service of the Tenement-House Commission.

Mr. Stewart said he had made the new charter in Superintendent of Buildings reached the office at Eighteenth street and Fourth avenue shortly after 9 o'clock. He was in his office when Mr. Wallace, his predecessor, arrived behind one of the department's brougham. There was formality in the transfer of authority.

TO ABOLISH "EASY JOBS."

President Joseph Cassidy, of Queens Borough, has caused great anxiety by the announcement that all unnecessary offices are to be abolished. Persons who have been receiving good salaries for doing practically nothing are expecting to be discharged.

The new President was hard at work to-day with his secretary, George Jarvis, in his office in the Borough Hall.

"CLEAN STREETS" WOODBURY'S AIM.

NAGLE'S SUCCESSOR RETICENT ABOUT HIS PLANS.

"Mayor Low has asked me to clean the streets," said Dr. John McGaw Woodbury, the new Commissioner of Street-Cleaning, when seen to-day.

He found a pile of office-seekers awaiting him when he reached his office in Beekman street. He mail was full of complaints about dirty streets, and there was the usual sheaf of communications suggesting how the new Commissioner should run his office.

"I appreciate the fact," said Dr. Woodbury, "that the matter of clean streets is one of the most important features of the new administration. I shall do all I can to make the department a model one in all respects. I expect to be able to give my complete plans in detail in a few days. I know the material I have to work with and am sure of what can be accomplished. I think it will be better for me not to do any talking or make any promises. The most I can say, and it will look at it in a large way, it is saying a great deal, is that Mayor Low has asked me to clean the streets.

Dr. Woodbury did not make any immediate changes in the personnel of Street-Cleaning Department. When he was in conference his assistants in the Health Commission he told them that the policy toward all of them would be: "As you are."

TO TRY VOTING MACHINE.

The Board of Elections today decided to give the Hartwell voting machine a trial in this borough. One of the machines will be used in the forthcoming Seventh Congressional District election in the Second Election District of the Second Assembly District at No. 7 William street.

Before adjourning the board passed a resolution of appreciation of the aid and cooperation of the Police Department in the recent municipal election. It was directed a copy of the resolution be sent to former Police Commissioner Murphy.

CONCERNING THE RUMOR THAT SENATOR PLATT IS TO WED.

The newspapers continue to report that Senator Platt is to be married. This suggests to Cartoonist Powers some queries:

Has Mr. Platt caught the love microbe from Depew?

Will Croker be his best man? Will marriage knock out the poetic muse?

HILL'S LIEUTENANT TALKS TO CANTOR

ELLIOTT DANFORTH HOLDS PRIVATE CONFERENCE.

One of the first callers on Borough President Cantor this morning was Elliot F. Danforth. Mr. Danforth seemed overjoyed to see Mr. Cantor, shook hands heartily and had a private conference with him in the inner office. The two men talked seriously and in low tones for some time and seemed to be much interested in their conversation.

The call of Mr. Danforth and the long talk that followed is considered somewhat significant. Mr. Danforth is known as former Senator David B. Hill's right hand man. He ran for the office of Lieutenant-Governor on the ticket with Augustus A. Van Wyck.

Mr. Danforth said that there was no politics in his call and that he was merely visiting Mr. Cantor to congratulate him.

NEW BLOOD IN BOARD OF HEALTH

WELL-KNOWN PHYSICIANS ACT AS ADVISORS.

The first meeting of the Board of Health under the new charter was held at the offices of the Board to-day. The new Board which consists of Commissioner Lederle, Police Commissioner Partridge and Health Officer Doty, announced the appointment of these physicians as an Advisory Board: Edward G. Janeway, Joseph D. Bryant, T. Mitchell Prudden, William M. Polk, A. Jacoby, John Winter Brannan, Richard H. Derby, F. Emmet Holt, Alexander Smith, Francis C. Kunzmann and Henry T. Loomis.

Prof. Charles S. Chandler, of Columbia College, was appointed Consulting Sanitarian. Dr. Joseph H. Raymond was appointed Assistant Sanitary Superintendent in place of Dr. Robert Black, who resigned.

R. C. W. Wadsworth was appointed secretary to Commissioner Lederle. There were a few promotions made among minor officials. The Board ordered the removal of one hundred and fifty-seven persons and 37 a total of 1,000 on the Department rolls. These were principally laborers, painters, sanitary inspectors, vaccinators, school inspectors, messengers and office boys.

The appropriation for 1901 was $1,053,000, but the sum of $1,223,000 was spent, leaving a deficit of $169,000, which came out of the bond issues.

APPOINTMENT IN QUEENS.

President Cassidy to-day announced the appointment of David L. Van Nostrand as Deputy Commissioner of Public Works. As soon as the appointment was made Surrogate Daniel Noble administered the oath of office to the new deputy commissioner, who entered at once upon his duties.

Mr. Van Nostrand has always been an active Democratic worker. He represented Flushing in the Council. Mr. Cassidy being the other Councilman from Queens. Prior to consolidation he was a member of the Queens County Board of Supervisors and was chairman of the Board.

KELLER'S LEGACY TO FOLKS.

Charities Commissioner Homer Folks arrived at his office, foot of East Twenty-sixth street, at 9 o'clock this morning. He locked himself in, receiving some heads of departments, to whom he talked for a little while. He gave no orders to them and issued none for any branch of the service. No changes were announced by him and no appointments or resignations made or hinted at.

It was learned to-day that the last official act of retiring Commissioner Keller was to reinstate seven employees of the Department who had been laid off during the summer. One was Thomas Campbell, purchasing agent, at a salary of $2,000 a year. He appeared for duty this morning with the others. Another was Miss Mary Glynn, who gets the position of clerk at the history desk in the reception office, a place never before filled by a woman. Four others went to the Outdoor Poor Department at $1,000 a year.

Commissioner Folks had nothing to say about these employees.

DEMOCRATS MAY CHANGE POLITICS.

BOLT IN ELIZABETH CAUCUS STARTS A BIG ROW.

(Special to The Evening World.)

ELIZABETH, N. J., Jan. 2.—As a sequence to the bolting of five of the Democratic Councilmen from the caucus to elect J. F. Kenah as city clerk instead of James J. Manning, who was re-elected, Councilman Bernard J. Higgins said to-day that five Democrats would resign.

This would give the Republicans a good majority. The resignations will probably be handed in on Feb. 1.

The young Democrats of the city are enraged over what they call the perfidy of Collins, O'Leary, Sheridan, Liddy and Kenely, who bolted the caucus, and much trouble is brewing.

It is estimated that the Councilmen who will resign will turn Republican and seek appointment to the council.

TENEMENT-HOUSE COMMISSION PLAN.

COMMISSIONER AND DEPUTY OCCUPY NEW QUARTERS.

The new Tenement-House Commission took possession this morning of the first and second floors of the Telephone Building, at Irving Place and Eighteenth, for its headquarters. At present the floors are just two large rooms without division, but Commissioner De Forest and his deputy, Lawrence Veiller, are busily engaged in making plans to have them subdivided into offices.

The second floor only will be for the public use, while the first floor will be reserved for the examiners. The office force will probably number more than three hundred, divided into clerks and stenographers, examiners and inspectors.

There will be a chief examiner and a chief inspector, each to act as the head of a bureau. With the possible exception of these two chiefs, every appointment will be under the civil service.

The official blanks for use by architects arrived this morning, and the Commission is now ready for business. Under the Tenement-House law, architects or intending builders of tenements must file plans in triplicate with the Commission. The plans, if approved, will be signed, one copy to the Building Department, one to the architect and the other will be kept on file.

The inspectors of the Tenement-House Department will watch the erection of the buildings and see that the plans are carried out in matters of light and ventilation, while the Building Department inspectors will look after the construction and plumbing.

Deputy Commissioner Veiller said that the office force had not been properly organized as yet, but that he hoped before the end of the month to have everything in complete working order.

FEWER "HOT TIMES" NOW.

East-side ball promoters are in for a hard winter.

The Lady Hack Drivers' Association and social organizations of a similar kind are going to have difficulty in getting permits for their functions unless they give guarantees that the conventions of polite society will be carefully preserved.

Col. Partridge has recalled the ball permit stamp which used to be in the possession of a sergeant of the Headquarters staff.

In Tammany times when an application for a permit for a ball was made the sergeant took it for granted that it was all right.

There is to be no more of that. Col. Partridge announced to-day that he would sign all such permits, and that he would investigate before signing.

STERLING WINS ON RECOUNT

Declared Elected Supervisor Over F. W. Thompson at White Plains.

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Jan. 2.—E. H. Sterling, Republican candidate for member of the Board of Supervisors at the election last fall, was declared today to hae been elected over his Democratic opponent, F. M. Thompson. This was the result of a recount which was made in court before Judge Martin J. Keogh.

Sterling was a member of the old board, and has been holding over, pending a decision of the contest.

QUEENS POLICE HAVE A PUZZLE.

CAN'T SOLVE MYSTERY OF PARTRIDGE'S PLANS.

Members of the Police Department of the Borough of Queens are still in the dark as to what changes will be made in the department by the new administration.

Deputy Chief Clayton declined to-day to discuss prospective changes and said he did not know whether the new administration would carry out the order of ex-Police Commissioner Murphy and create a detective bureau in the borough of Queens, to be in charge of an experienced detective sergeant.

It was reported that Deputy Chief Clayton was likely to go back to Brooklyn, but he would not discuss it. Other heads of the borough police at headquarters in Long Island City expressed the opinion that there would be few changes in Queens by Commissioner Partridge.

JUSTICE STECKLER RETAINS MR. KEOGH.

WAS PRIVATE SECRETARY TO JUSTICE M'ADAM.

Justice Steckler of the Supreme Court to-day named Thomas F. Keogh for the position of private secretary at $2,500 a year.

Mr. Keogh held this confidential relation to the late Justice David McAdam for several years, and his devotion to his chief was remarkable. He nursed Judge McAdam in his last illness and was with him at his death. Keogh's only absence from his post during seven years was when he resigned to go to the front as private in the Sixty-ninth Regiment. He returned a lieutenant, after receiving special commendation at the front.

His retention by Justice Steckler gives special satisfaction to the widow of Justice McAdam and Thomas McAdam, the dead Justice's son.

"Mr. Keogh is a practicing lawyer, and should be of great assistance to me," said Justice Steckler to-day.

The law forbids a Justice of the Supreme Court to engage in law practice or in any other business, and to-day the name of Alfred Steckler was taken off the office door in the Pulitzer Building, leaving only "Charles Steckler, the honest one, but happy brother of the new Justice."

NEW SEWER COMMISSIONER.

Borough President Swanstrom, of Brooklyn, announced to-day the appointment of John Thatcher as Commissioner of Sewers. Mr. Thatcher is fifty-four years old. He is an independent Republican and has been a contractor and builder for many years. He has travelled extensively abroad and studied the sewerage system of all the principal foreign cities. He entered upon his duties at once, stating that he had resigned from all his private enterprises.

William P. Redfield, Mr. Swanstrom's Commissioner of Public Works, announced that he had appointed as his private secretary A. S. Aubrey. Mr. Aubrey was for four years postmaster at Fulton under President Cleveland. He is secretary of the Brooklyn League, a political organization. He is an independent Democrat.

TAX COMMISSION MEETS.

The Tax Commission held a meeting for organization this afternoon. The meeting was executive and nothing was given out about it except that the organization had been perfected and that members of the staff might be appointed to-morrow.

Previous to the meeting a delegation of about twenty members of the North Side Board of Trade waited on President James L. Wells. Mr. Wells has been President of this organization for six years. W. W. Niles, jr., the spokesman, presented, on behalf of the organization, a handsome gavel to Mr. Wells. The gavel is of ebony, ivory and mounted with gold.

NEW WATER SUPPLY DEPUTY.

William A. De Long has been appointed Deputy Commissioner of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity for Manhattan by Commissioner Dougherty. Mr. De Long's salary has not been fixed.

LOOKING NOW TO FUTURE OFFICES.

Republicans with Little Business on Hand Talk of the Nominations of Next Autumn.

(Special to The Evening World.)

ALBANY, Jan. 2.—The Republicans are so great in numbers and so arrogant in manner in the present Legislature as to render the State Government top heavy in partisanship and are disregarding legislation to guess how the nominations will go next autumn.

It is admitted that Gov. Odell will be renominated, though there is no certainty about it. Next in importance the engrossing topic concerns the succession of Senator Platt.

The venerable boss says he is going to retire at the end of his term, which is fourteen months away. There are no active candidates to succeed him, but there are a great many aspirants. They wouldn't for the world have it thought that they wanted to fill "the Old Man's" shoes, but (not for publication) admit that they might be induced—if they thought the boss really didn't want to succeed himself.

If he is sincere in his intentions any one of these gentlemen could be prevailed on to take the job: Speaker S. Fred Nixon, Lieut.-Gov. Woodruff, ex-Gov. Frank S. Black, Editor E. H. Butler, of Buffalo; Ambassador Joseph H. Choate and Cornelius N. Bliss.

Men who are close to the Odell wing of the party think Mr. Black will come nearer being "it" than any of the others.

He could be occupying the seat now held by that jocund bridegroom Chauncey M. Depew had he consented to the renomination of Mr. Roosevelt as Governor in 1898. He would not consent and was declared out of it.

Since then he has been playing pretty close to Gov. Odell, and the Governor does not conceal his admiration for him. Mr. Black's most formidable competitor for Senatorial honors would probably be Lieut.-Gov. Woodruff. It is pretty generally settled that Mr. Woodruff will not again be nominated for Lieutenant-Governor. As a matter of fact it is not entirely impossible that the Lieutenant-Governor will decide to make a fight for the gubernatorial nomination.

In the view of some of the party experts he has graduated from the first into the second class, and is entitled to serious consideration as a candidate for Governor if it is decided that the one term idea which prevailed during the administration of Messrs. Morton, Black and Roosevelt still holds good. Senator Platt regards Mr. Woodruff with decided favor.

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Gov. Odell jolted the corporations and officials of some of the institutions supported by the State a great deal more severely than was expected. His surprise for the corporations was contained in his recommendation that a bill imposing a stamp tax of one-half of one per cent. be levied on mortgages. If the lobby cannot by characteristic methods defeat this plan the State will realize an additional revenue of $3,000,000 from this source.

There will be a fight, of course, and perhaps a little scandal, before the bill is finally passed, but it looks as if the Governor will win. The row that is sure to result promises to be the one important feature of the session next to the Governor's attempt to reform the charitable, corrective and insane institutions of the State. His scheme for bringing about these reforms is primarily to abolish the existing boards of managers of the twenty institutions of the class described.

There are seventy-seven managers of this sort and they are directly intrusted with the administration of the respective institutions under their supervision. The Governor would supplant them with visiting boards without any authority other than to recommend changes or reforms. He would intrust the direct management to the central bureaus at Albany and cut the expenses of running the institutions by $1,200,000 a year. The managers and their political friends and perhaps some of the charitable and philanthropic bodies of the State will be sure to fight against the change, as they did against the Governor's attempt to reorganize the Charities Commission last year. It is pretty certain, however, that some of the Governor's recommendations for reforming the conduct of the State institutions will be carried out.

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The same old gang of political camp followers demanding patronage and "graft," the same old mob of promoters, lobbyists and corporation agents, are seen here. Not one of the old timers is missing, not a new face is seen in the round-up of schemers that have been haunting the State Capitol building or the corridors of the hotels for years. And such a disappointed lot they are, too, as a result of the determination of the Governor to cut everything short—the length of the session, the "graft", and soft jobs!

They do not dare to protest openly, but when they get off in corners the Governor and his supporters come in for a lot of "roasting." Talk of "one-man power," "ingratitude" and "selfishness" is heard on every hand, and the prediction is not rare that the Republican machine is going to pieces as fast as it can.

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It is a rare sight indeed to see Senator Timothy D. Sullivan at an opening session of the Legislature. He was on deck yesterday, and really appeared to take an interest in the proceedings. His explanation was simple and characteristic.

"Yes, it's pretty dead here," he admitted "and it's a long way from the Bowery. But, as it is, it's better than staying down in New York and witnessing the heartbreaking sight of our boys going out into the cold for two years.

"I tell you that's enough to melt the heart of a stone. There's only one comforting thing about it. We will be back at the old stand this time two years hence, and you can bet all the money you ever saw or heard of that we won't make some of the mistakes we made this time."

HEADS OF BUREAUS GET DOWN TO WORK

BUSY DAY AT THE OFFICES IN PARK ROW BUILDING.

George Livingstone, Commissioner of Public Works under President Cantor, of the borough of Manhattan, took up his quarters in the old office of President Holahan, of the Board of Public Improvements in the Park Row Building this morning. He takes active supervision of sewers, highways, baths and the purchasing agency, and is virtually a Vice-President of the Borough.

William H. Walker, Superintendent of Public Buildings and Offices, has taken possession of Commissioner Kearney's offices.

Superintendent James G. Collins, of Highways, is retaining all the heads of bureaus under him. He said to-day that so long as his men do efficient work there will be no removals.

John McGaw, Commissioner of Street Cleaning, arrived at his office early and assumed active command of the forces of his department. He will make no changes at present.

William H. Michaels, Superintendent of Sewers, is installed in Commissioner Kane's old quarters.

Gustav Lindenthal, Commissioner of Bridges, said it might be a week before he had made any changes. He has already had conferences tending to hasten work on the new East River Bridge.

"Every possible means," he said, "will be used to guarantee the safety of the Brooklyn Bridge. A systematic and periodical inspection has already been partly arranged and the Chief Engineer of the Department, who will be Lefferts L. Buck, will be directly responsible."

J. Hampden Dougherty, Commissioner of Water, Gas and Electricity, asked Mayor Low to approve the appointment of William A. De Long as Deputy Commissioner. He said that Mr. De Long had been in the rubber trade and belonged to no political organization.

EBSTEIN BUSY IN BROOKLYN.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Ebstein reached Police Headquarters in Brooklyn at 9 o'clock this morning.

All of the Brooklyn captains with the exception of Brown, of Canarsie, were gathered in Inspector McLaughlin's office to meet him.

Col. Ebstein made them a two-minute address. He asked them all to read the address Commissioner Partridge made to the Manhattan captains yesterday, saying that the recommendations therein contained would apply to Brooklyn.

After being introduced to the captains he announced that he would visit each at his station-house in the near future. Then he went to his office and began work.

TAKE CHARGE OF PARKS.

The formal transfer of the Park Department took place this morning in the offices of the Park Board.

W. R. Willcox, John E. Eustis and Richard Young, the incoming Commissioners, were welcomed by Messrs. Clausen and Moebus, and the transfer was made at once. There was a magnificent display of flowers from the park conservatories.

Commissioner Willcox said that he would conduct a business-like administration and that no good man would have anything to fear.

"REWARDS GIVEN FOR MERIT ONLY."

FIRE COMMISSIONER STURGIS MAKES NEW RULE.

Commissioner Thomas Sturgis, of the Fire Department, was at his office at Fire Headquarters, Sixty-seventh street and Third avenue, early this morning.

His first official act was to send out the following notice throughout the Department, through Chief Edward F. Croker:

"Upon again assuming command, the Commissioner presents his cordial greetings to the officers and men of the uniformed force and to the civilian employees of all grades, connected with the Department.

"That no misunderstanding may exist, he makes the following brief announcement of the objects sought to be accomplished and the principles which will control during his administration:

"First. The highest possible efficiency of fire service.

"Second. Careful economy in expenditure consistent with such service and with progressive methods.

"The uniformed force are informed:

"That promotion or other reward will be made or given for merit only.

"That faithful and meritorious service will be thus recognized as far as it may be in the power of the Commission to do so.

"That transfers will be made only for the good of the service.

"That strict discipline in accordance with the rules of the service and unquestioning subordination to proper authority will be required and exacted, and that lack of discipline, insubordination and negligence will be punished wherever found.

"That reasonable complaints will be heard and decided by the Commissioner in person or by his deputies in the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, upon proper application and at suitable times.

"That absolute justice, so far as can be ascertained, will be meted out in each instance, free from favor or influence."

GOV. CRANE INAUGURATED.

For the Third Time He Takes the Oath of Office.

BOSTON, Jan. 2.—Before a convention of both branches of the Legislature and in the presence of several hundred invited guests, including State dignitaries, members of the judiciary and prominent citizens, W. Murray Crane, of Dalton, at noon to-day took the oath of office for the third time as the Governor of Massachusetts.

Wedding Rings.

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