LOCAL MISCELLANY.

ABUSES IN COTTON HANDLING.

A PLAN TO PREVENT LOSS BY DISHONESTY.

In consequence of an appeal signed by many of the leading cotton houses of this city, the members of the Cotton Exchange met yesterday to consider the plan of a Supervisory Department of the Exchange, as recommended by the Board of Managers. The board on April 19 went very carefully over the rules proposed by the merchants who signed the appeal, and after some amendments accepted the plan, but in view of the importance of the subject resolved, before finally adopting it, to lay the matter before the Exchange for its approval, which, it was believed, would put a stop to practices which had become a reproach to the cotton trade of this port. That such practices exist there is no doubt, but very few have any idea of the extent to which they are carried and the heavy pecuniary losses inflicted through them upon the trade. The subject has attracted the attention of every Board of Managers for several seasons. The present board concluded that the Exchange must take the cure of this evil into its own hands, and obtain complete control of all persons engaged in the actual handling of cotton, and make them responsible to the Exchange for the faithful discharge of the obligations assumed in applying for licenses. Following are the principal points in the proposed rules: Warehousemen shall exercise at all times a general supervision over receipts and deliveries of cotton in or at their premises. Being trustees of all cotton there they are generally responsible for its protection until removed by order of its owner through the agency of duly licensed persons. They shall see that no samples are drawn, and that no delivery is made to any other person. They are to take charge of and weigh all loose cotton, top samples and pickings, and hold them subject to the order of the owner. When cotton is ordered sampled by the owner in or at warehouse they shall not allow more than one set of samples to be drawn unless the sampler delivers a written order for two or more sets. Samples shall not exceed six ounces in weight, except in deliveries on contract, when 12 ounces may be drawn in one sample, and that sample broken in half. They shall see that no cotton is taken from their premises by any person employed in receiving, delivering, or sampling, other than the samples they have weighed. They shall weigh and record the weight of such samples, as well as the weight of any top samples or other loose cotton left by the sampler, and these shall be properly recorded and reported to the assistant supervisor.

Weighers are to see that all unnecessary bagging is removed from bales before they are weighed, or a fair and equitable deduction shall be made for its weight. They shall see that no persons employed by them take any cotton; their duty is strictly to assist in weighing, and they must not be permitted to put any cotton from the bales.

The rules for samplers prescribe that in sampling, receiving, or delivering cotton, they shall not draw a heavier sample than six ounces, nor more than one sample from each bale, unless by written consent from the owner. They are to have no authority over nor to be permitted to take away any cotton whatever except the samples referred to. The duties of menders and tinckmen are then prescribed. The Supervisory Department is to consist of a chief supervisor and his assistant and as many assistant supervisors and clerks as may be necessary. On all deliveries the fees for supervision of cotton shall be five cents a bale, to be paid by the deliverer, and five cents by the receiver. All cotton in transit shall be supervised on request of the owner, the fees to be 10 cents a bale.

It was decided that the Bureau of Supervision should be self-supporting. The system, it was stated, was not an experiment tried elsewhere, but its beneficial effects were well known. In weatever cotton markets it had been established irregularities and loss in weight had ceased, and reclamations from abroad had become rare. While the contract system, by its perfection and the magnitude of the operations, controlled to a great extent the future of prices throughout the world, the "spot" business had year by year been diverted elsewhere. Buyers avoided the New-York market, and owners were afraid to consign their property to this city lest the loss in weight should absorb all margins for profit. It was estimated that through the irregularities of sampling, weighing, &c., fully 10,000 bales of cotton were lost every year. If this abuse could be removed and trustworthy assurances given that the cotton would be honestly handled, it could be reasonably hoped that the receipts of cotton at this port would increase and bring renewed prosperity to merchants and brokers.

After considerable discussion a committee of five was appointed to confer with warehouse and railroad men as to the feasibility of the consolidation of storage. This committee is to report on June 1.

A SWINDLER OF FOUR CONTINENTS.

"SELIM R. BEY'S" VARIED CAREER OF CHEATING—IMPOSING ON HOTEL-KEEPERS AND FAMILIES IN GOOD SOCIETY.

A recent guest at some of the best hotels in this city has been a man who represents himself as an Egyptian of great wealth visiting this country for pleasure and for the purpose of studying American life, manners, society, and institutions. The name which appears in large letters upon the hotel registers is Selim R. Bey. He speaks English, French, and German fluently; is a mine of information concerning his pretended native country, Egypt; is accomplished, versatile, and of fine presence, and assumes an easy air of familiarity with distinguished people such as to impress those with whom he comes in contact with the belief that he is really, as he says, on intimate terms with princes, dukes, and earls abroad and a man of consequence in his own country. He has had the confidence of many well-known families in the city and mingled with the members on friendly terms. He has been feasted, entertainments have been given for his pleasure, and he has been the recipient of many attentions and honors.

When he arrived in the city he went to the Windsor Hotel, had some of the finest rooms in the house set apart for his use, and incurred an expense of several hundreds of dollars a week. When the bill was presented he looked at it with calm indifference and said he would settle it when his letters of credit came. But they did not come, and the proprietors urged payment. Finally they threatened to expose him, and he succeeded in obtaining the requisite sum from the member of a family who believed his stories and whose son was acting as his private secretary. Selim R. Bey then went to the Fifth Avenue Hotel, where he soon became in arrears, and when he was forced to pay what he owed succeeded in getting the same persons to advance the money. Other persons who have trusted him are still waiting for the "remittances" to arrive.

Some incredulous people, who have doubted the genuineness of the man's stories, communicated with the police, and yesterday a letter was shown to Commissioner Eckardt and Wheeler from Cairo, Egypt, which proves Selim R. Bey to be one of the most accomplished swindlers of the age. His true name is Solomon Rosenzweig. He is a Syrian Jew and a native of Beyrout, where he learned English, French, and German and acted as interpreter for travelers. He swindled a number of people, and for various thefts was arrested and locked up in prison. He made his escape, and was next seen in Cairo, Egypt, where he committed many thefts and was lionized. He then went to Alexandria, where he represented himself to be a Syrian of great wealth, and by the use of forged letters obtained access to the best society. He became a visitor in one of the wealthiest families of that city, and succeeded in winning the affections of and betraying one of the daughters. When word of that further commitment of his true character would come to be impossible, he robbed the wronged girl of her ornaments and jewels and fled to Europe. He passed some time in Paris and elsewhere on the Continent, swindling incredulous on an extensive scale, and then went to London, where he cheated many hotel-keepers. Becoming too well known there, he came to this city and continued the same plan of operations. He has little baggage, and when Mr. Waite of the Windsor Hotel seized what it had for non-payment of board, he found one gold sleeve-button, marked with the man's true initials, "S. R.," and cheap jewelry to the value of about fifty cents. Rosenzweig is still on his travels, and there are some people who yet put faith in his stories. His record, however, is now known by the police.

OPENING OF THE PETROLEUM EXCHANGE.

A large number of oil merchants and brokers from the West attended the opening of the New-York Petroleum Exchange yesterday at No. 82 Beaver-st. The opening address was delivered by the President, W. Jay Ives. Mr. Greenfield, President of the Oil City Exchange; Mr. Morehead, President of Parker's Landing Exchange; Mr. Foster of Oil City, and several other prominent members of the trade spoke. Dispatches of greeting from the oil exchanges in Pennsylvania oil regions were read by the Secretary, S. F. Stone.

The objects of the association are to provide suitable rooms for an exchange, to maintain fair and equitable principles in trade, to disseminate business information, and to adjust controversies. The number of active members is limited to 50, but there will be associate members without the right to vote, but having the freedom of the rooms. The associates must transact business, however, through active members. The Exchange is to be open for business daily, except Sundays and legal holidays, from 10 a. m. until 5 p. m. No person except members shall be admitted on the floor of the Exchange for purposes of business. Members, however, may introduce their friends as visitors. Each active member must have an office within half a mile of the Exchange, or make arrangements for deliveries within that distance. Fictitious sales are positively forbidden, and render the persons concerned liable to suspension or expulsion from the Exchange. Transactions covered by the rules of the Produce Exchange shall be subject thereto, if not in conflict with the regulations.

DR. CROSBY ON MISSION WORK.

The anniversary meeting of the St. Paul's Women's Foreign Missionary Society was held last evening at Fourth-ave. and Twenty-second-st., Dr. Howard Crosby presiding. In his opening prayer, Dr. Crosby alluded to the Turco-Russian war, and prayed that God might give the victory to the Turks, since in spite of their being decried as enemies of Christianity, they were far more liberal in spirit and favorable to evangelical truth than the Russians. In the address which he afterward delivered, Dr. Crosby reviewed the work of foreign missions, dwelling particularly on what had been done in Spain. The Rev. Mr. Gulick, he said, had recently opened missions at Santander and Zaragossa, and had had surprising success. The histories of foreign missions were the most interesting reading possible, and it was a surprise to him that people bought trashy novels in preference, when these missionary works were at the same time more interesting and more beneficial to the soul. Next to sermons, nothing warmed the soul more for Christ than missionary works. He also reminded his hearers of the necessity of home mission work. Every person should have a systematic plan of working for Jesus, and obtaining converts for Him. It was not sufficient to go about in a desultory manner, but strict, methodical, patient work was required, as much in the attempt to save one soul as one hundred. Here in the city there was plenty of room for home mission work, and if one really desired to work for Christ he could do so with as much effect at home as by going abroad among the heathen.

SUCCESSORS OF COMMISSIONERS.

THE MEN WHOM THE MAYOR FAVORS.

Mayor Ely left the Mayor's office yesterday morning to accompany the Russian officers on their visit to the city's charitable institutions, and Deputy Controller Storrs was in charge of the Controller's office, in the absence of Mr. Kelly. The clerks and employés in the various municipal departments discussed the rumored nominations to be made by the Mayor for the vacant places, and were controlled in their wishes and opinions by their party bias and affiliations. It was believed by all that the action of the Legislature upon the city bills now before it would govern the appointments of heads of departments. It had not been settled yesterday that the nominations would be sent in to the Aldermen to-day. There was a general belief that the Mayor would wait until next Tuesday, although a few hopeful office-holders were confident that the names had been decided upon and the new commissioners would be confirmed to-day. The talk among the politicians, who claim to know what is going on in the private consultations of the Mayor with his political supporters and the party leaders in the Legislature, indicates the probable appointments as follows: Police Commissioner, Benjamin F. Manierre; Fire Commissioner, John T. Gorman; Dock Commissioner, Salem H. Wales; Charity Commissioner, Thomas S. Brennan; City Chamberlain, J. Nelson Tappan; and Tax Commissioner, George H. Andrews. Mr. Manierre and Mr. Gorman would be new appointments, although Mr. Manierre served as Police Commissioner for several years. The reappointment of Mr. Wales is not considered as fully determined upon, but is said to be contingent on the course of his friends in the Legislature in relation to city bills. The successor to Park Commissioner Martin is not yet named, but very few think that Mr. Martin will be reappointed.

A DULL COAL MARKET.

Among the many rumors which have been circulated recently in Wall-st. in regard to the coal trade, and which for a time received some credit, has been one that the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company had advanced the price of coal 50 cents a ton, to take effect May 1. At the office of the company in this city it was stated yesterday that no change had been made in the schedule price of its coal at New-York. The circular prices for the current month for coal delivered at Port Richmond also remain the same, except for egg and stove grades, which have been advanced 10 cents a ton, making the present price for egg $2 75 and for stove $3 10. The transportation charges between Port Richmond and New-York are from 85 cents to 90 cents a ton, which added to the price at Port Richmond, would make stove coal cost at New-York about $4 a ton. The price actually realized here, however, does not exceed $3 50, and a large portion of the company's coal is sold below this price, the figures depending somewhat upon the size of the lots disposed of. Large sales are making of A1 Reading stove coal from $3 10 to $3 20 a ton, delivered at New-York or Williamsburgh free on board. The explanation given for the slight difference in the schedule prices of coal at New-York and Port Richmond is that other companies competing with the Reading at this point, and the prices established here cannot therefore exceed the current market rates, which are in no way controlled by the prices at Port Richmond. It is understood that the company has no fixed charges for coal delivered at competitive points, including New-York. It is selling all the coal it can market at the best prices obtainable.

The large coal dealers report a dull market for all sizes, with a further silent decline in the price of stove coal from that obtainable prior to the last auction sale. The demand for the large sizes is not as great as it was ten days ago, and prices are consequently weak, without any material change. A large surplus of coal is accumulating, and dealers are expecting even lower prices during the dull Summer season. A medium quality of stove coal was offered this week at $2 90 a ton, without finding a buyer, and A1 Lehigh Valley coal can be bought at $3 25 a ton in large lots.

PUBLIC SCHOOL QUESTIONS.

The Board of Education yesterday referred to the Committee on By-laws a communication from the Carnival Association relative to the dismissal of the schools on the afternoon of carnival day. The resignation of Michael Ryan as trustee in the Fourth Ward was accepted. The Committee on By-laws reported that Trustees Henken, Duffy, and Merrill had been requested to resign at one time because of difficulties among the trustees of that ward, and had declined to do so. Since that time matters had moved quietly, and the committee accordingly had taken no further action. Some changes were made in the Board of Truancy. William Kemeys was appointed Superintendent in place of A. M. Stanton, removed. The following agents were appointed: W. B. Church, P. H. Jobes, A. C. Martinez, Theodore Reeves, F. M. Roser, M. C. Broadley, W. Kipnell, J. S. Ketchem, J. H. Fuller, J. W. Curtis, M. H. Phillip, and H. S. Neise. A resolution was referred to the Committee of Salaries in regard to the charge of the by-law touching leave of absence among teachers. At present the substitute is not certain of pay unless licensed to teach; and it is urged by some that if the substitute is appointed to the position no questions should be asked, but that the salary should be promptly paid. It is not probable that any change will be made. President Wood was appointed to take charge of a legacy bequeathed to the Board of Education many years ago by Ephraim Holbrook. By his will this sum was to be devoted to the purchase of books for the library of the College of the City of New-York, but the legacy was not to be paid until the death of his wife, Mrs. Holbrook died in December, 1874. The executors were allowed by the will three years to settle up the estate. Those interested in the residuary clause in the will now wish to pay the $5,000 without interest during three years. The matter is in appeal in the courts, and they offer to compromise the matter by paying half the legacy. Mr. Wood will receive and control the expenditure of the legacy, and be governed by his judgment in the matter of the compromise. The interest amounts to about $700.

A NEW TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES.

A training school for nurses will be opened soon in the New-York Hospital. The class will be limited to twelve. Applicants must be between the ages of 20 and 35, strong and healthy, must have a fair English education, and bring certificates of good character from satisfactory sources. The course of instruction will include practical and theoretical teaching, in medical, surgical, and special nursing, bandaging, &c., and elementary lessons in anatomy, physiology, and hygiene. It will extend over two years. At the end of the first year a second class will be taken in, and the first class will become head nurses of wards for the second year. At the end of this year they will be graduated, after passing a satisfactory examination, and receive the diploma of the school. The whole number in training at any one time will thus be twenty-four. One month of each year will be passed in the kitchen, and one month in the laundry. Each of these departments will be directed by a skillful and experienced head. The instruction in the kitchen will include plain cooking, and all the varieties of special diet, the various gruels, porridges, broths, soups, jellies, and similar preparations. In the laundry, plain and fancy washing and ironing will be taught, the use of the various soaps and cleaning preparations, their effect on the material of the articles washed, &c. It is believed that the graduates shall be not only good nurses, but good housekeepers. It is believed that the instruction given will be an ample equivalent for all services rendered. An allowance will be made, however (for clothing), of $10 a month for the first year, and $16 a month for the second. It is thought that the graduates will command wages at all times equal to the highest rate paid in the country for similar services—varying from $10 to $30 a week, according to circumstances.

AMERICAN POPULAR LIFE OFFICERS INDICTED.

The Grand Jury came into the Court of General Sessions yesterday noon and handed up to Judge Gilbert over a large bundle of indictments. The papers were immediately taken to the clerk's office, and before they were filed Thomas S. Lambert, President, and Alexander J. Reed, Secretary of the American Popular Life Insurance Company, came in to inquire whether or not they had been indicted. Being answered in the affirmative, they went in to the District-Attorney's office with their bondsmen. In Mr. Lambert's case, bail was fixed at $10,000, James McCall of No. 9 West Forty-second-st. becoming his bondsman. Mr. Reed gave bail in $5,000, with George F. Buckley and Charles E. Buckley of No. 694 Broadway as sureties. The offense charged in both indictments is the same—perjury in swearing to the amount of the company's assets and the manner in which they were invested. The alleged frauds in the management of this company were fully published in THE TRIBUNE several days ago.

CRIMINALITY AND PUNISHMENT.

Dr. W. G. Stevenson of Poughkeepsie read an essay on "Criminality" before the Medico-Legal Society last evening. He dwelt upon the mutual dependence of mind and body; the inequality of men, mentally, morally, and physically; and the transmission of good and bad propensities from parents to children. Dr. Stevenson considered heredity a leading cause, though not the only cause, of morbidity and lunacy. Here he gave many illustrations showing how materially children were affected by surroundings, apart from all considerations of birth. In concluding, he declared that the present system of punishment for crime appeared to him to be very erroneous; he thought crime could not be prevented by punishment, because in committing crime man acted as he could not help acting, and he should receive, therefore, in cases of crime, reasonable and humane treatment rather than treatment governed by prejudice and cruelty. However small the hope of success might seem to be, the public authorities should nevertheless strive to reform instead of punishing criminals. He especially urged parents to be assiduous and earnest in rightly training their children.

At the close of the essay a member asked what would become of society if hanging and other punishments were abolished. Another member spoke with feeling of the manner in which children were permitted to drift into crime, and of the coldness which society exhibited toward any one who strives to reform.

A SHEPHERD WHO LONGS TO ENTER A FOLD.

The courts have been called upon to decide which of the two boards of trustees is entitled to the control of the Children's Fold. The old board deposed the Rev. Mr. Cowley from the superintendency of the Fold, severed his connection with the board, of which he had been president, and placed a new matron at the Fold. Mr. Cowley declared this action illegal, but, it is stated, offered to abandon all connection with the institution if his claims were allowed, including his salary for several years, the expenses of a trip to Europe, and his valuation of the charter of the fold. As the trustees refused this proposition, Mr. Cowley called a meeting of the corporation, of which he and Mrs. Cowley are the principal members. He claimed that the powers of the corporation were superior to those of the trustees. The recent acts of the latter were annulled, the places of the members were declared vacant, a new board of trustees was elected, and Mr. Cowley was chosen secretary and reinstated in the general management. Mr. Cowley attempted to gain possession of the Fold, and this led to the pending litigation.

Mr. Cowley has recently issued a pamphlet entitled "The Children's Fold and its Shepherd," upon the title page of which is the request "Paint me as I am." He gives a history of his connection with charitable institutions in this city, and defends himself against charges of cruelty. The Fold is yet in charge of the old board of trustees, and is managed by the matron of the Sheltering Arms. The case will be tried in the Supreme Court, before Judge Donohue, next week.

SUICIDES FROM JEALOUSY AND SICKNESS.

Francis Gerin, a Frenchman, age 23, a baker in the employ of Wm. Griffers, in Twelfth-st., near Fifth-ave., has lived for some time with a woman known as Catharine Farley, at No. 48 Greenwich-ave. He became jealous of her on account of attentions paid to her by other men, and which, it is said, she has reciprocated. Early yesterday morning, after upbraiding her, he took a razor and attempted to cut his throat. She struggled with him, and finally wrested the weapon from his hands. The man then seized a double-barrel pistol and rushed upon the roof of the house, and shouting so as to attract the attention of passers-by in the street, he placed the weapon to his head and fired. The bullet entered the right side of the head, near the temple, and is supposed to have lodged in the brain. He was found bleeding on the roof and conveyed to the Charles Street Police Station, and afterward to Bellevue Hospital. Fears for his safety were pronounced probably fatal.

William Feeny, age 23, of No. 226 West Twenty-seventh-st., had been sick for four years, and had suffered a great deal of pain, so that he often wished that death would come to his relief. During the past week he acted as though insane, and yesterday morning he took a pistol from a drawer in his room, and, holding it to his breast, fired. He fell to the floor in a pool of blood, where he was discovered, a few minutes afterward, dead.

BLACKWELL'S ISLAND VISITED BY RUSSIAN OFFICERS.

By invitation of the Commissioners of Charities and Correction, the Grand Duke Constantine, accompanied by Capt. Toroff and Lieuts. Lomen, Plaksin, and Cherkas of the Askold; Lieuts. Chariboff and Obolenesky of the Svetlana, and other officers of the Russian vessels in this harbor visited the public institutions on Blackwell's Island yesterday. It was expected that the Grand Duke Alexis and Admiral Bontakoff would accompany the officers, but at the last moment they were obliged to decline. Admiral Rowan also was expected, but, finding himself unable to go, sent Lieut. Barrit of his staff as his representative. At 9 o'clock the steamer Shanandoah left the foot of East Twenty-sixth-st. and steamed around into the North River. At the foot of West Twenty-third-st. the guests from the Russian fleet, with Mayor Ely and his brother, were taken on board. The steamer landed the passengers at the upper pier at Blackwell's Island, and under the guidance of Commissioners Brennan, Bailey, and Cox, the inspection of the public institutions was begun at the Workhouse. Thence the party proceeded to the Lunatic Asylum. The Russian visitors, many of whom spoke good English, seemed much interested in the scenes presented to their view, and listened attentively to the explanations of the improvements that have been made. About 2 o'clock the party was entertained at the house of Warden Fox. Mayor Ely said a few words of welcome, and he was followed by Commissioners Brennan and Bailey. The inspection was finished by visiting the Penitentiary and Charity Hospital.

BROOKLYN OFFICIALS AT LOGGERHEADS.

The quarrel continues between Brooklyn officials in relation to the appointment of a Board of Elections. Mayor Schroeder on Tuesday afternoon sent word to Auditor Searing that the Mayor's office was at the disposal of the Controller and Auditor for the appointing of a Republican member of the board in the place of one of their Democratic nominees; on account of the insult which, the Mayor claimed, had been offered him by the Controller, he declined to meet with them. No attention being paid to this notice, the Mayor sent another communication to the Auditor, naming 12 o'clock yesterday as the hour for meeting and promising himself to be present if desired. To this Auditor Searing sent a reply saying that the Controller and himself had complied with the law and saw no necessity for further action on their part. However, he added, if the Mayor wished to correct the error into which he had fallen, or a plain violation of the spirit of the law, they were willing to give him an opportunity so to do. Messrs. Gilleran and Platt, who were nominated by the Auditor and Controller last Saturday, went yesterday afternoon to the office of the Board of Elections to claim their positions. They were met by Messrs. Woodruff, Benedict, and Green of the old board. Mr. Green stated that they had received no official announcement of the appointment of a new board, and until they did they would consider themselves entitled to the office.

AN ASSAULT WHICH WILL RESULT FATALLY.

Michael Carolin of No. 355 Madison-st. was brutally assaulted and beaten by a gang of ruffians at Pelitzi, and the Bowery on the night of March 26. Wm. Ballard, who was charged with being one of the assailants, was arrested, and discharged by a police justice, but was rearrested upon a warrant issued by the coroner on March 30, when Carolin made an ante-mortem statement, in which he charged Ballard with inflicting the injuries upon him. Coroner Woltman was given notice yesterday morning that Carolin was dying, and that Ballard's counsel would apply for his client's release on bail. The coroner therefore made an affidavit that Carolin could not live much longer, in order to oppose the prisoner's release from custody.

INDICTMENTS FOR WALL-ST. REPORTS.

Among the indictments presented by the Grand Jury yesterday were three against persons charged with circulating false reports in Wall-st. to affect unfavorably the stock of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. Warrants were issued last night and the persons indicted will be arrested to-day. As the arrests had not been made no information whatever could be had at the District Attorney's office regarding names or even the fact of any indictments having been found.

RAILROAD INTERESTS.

LAKE SHORE AND MICHIGAN SOUTHERN ELECTION.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, May 2.—The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway Company in this city to-day elected the following directors: Wm. H. Vanderbilt, Augustus Schell, Samuel F. Barger, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Wm. K. Vanderbilt, John E. Borrell, and Francis P. Freeman of New-York; Henry B. Payne and Aaron Stone of Cleveland; Albert Keep of Chicago; Wm. L. Scott and Chas. M. Reed of Erie, Penn., and Rasselas Brown of Warren, Penn. This election resulted in adding three new men to the board, being Cornelius Vanderbilt, Wm. K. Vanderbilt, and R. Brown—the first two named being sons of Wm. H. Vanderbilt. One vacancy was caused by the death of Commodore Vanderbilt, and the two others were made by dropping the names of Robert L. Crawford of New-York and Andrew D. White of Syracuse.

The bonded debt of the company on Dec. 31, 1875, was $36,250,000; on Dec. 31, 1876, it was $36,000,000. As compared with 1875 the gross earnings show a decrease of $485,000 22, or 3⅝ per cent. The operating expenses show a decrease of $356,685, or nearly 10 per cent. The net earnings show an increase of $471,613, or nearly 12 per cent.

The new board elected officers for the ensuing year as follows: Wm. H. Vanderbilt, President; Augustus Schell, Vice-President; E. D. Worcester, Secretary and Treasurer; C. P. Leland, Auditor; John Newell, General Manager, Charles Paine, General Superintendent, and L. B. Clark, Chief Engineer.

THE MISSOURI PACIFIC RAILROAD.

ST. LOUIS, May 2.—The receivers of the Missouri Pacific Railroad made their final report to the United States Circuit Court yesterday, and were discharged. The report shows the gross earnings of the road from March 8, 1876, the time of their appointment, to April 30, 1877, to have been $2,404,144 85, and the expenses $1,573,474 56; net earnings, $830,972 26.

THE YACHT IDA ASHORE.

WASHINGTON, May 2.—The Signal Service observer at Atlantic City, N. J., reports to the Chief Signal Officer at 3:30 p. m. as follows: "The sloop yacht Ida became unmanageable and ran on the bar opposite the station. Capt. Verrill and Life Crew No. 27 are trying to get her off."

AS BROAD AS LONG.—A gentleman returning from Leyton one evening hailed the conductor of an omnibus, and asked him if he was going to the Bank. He answered in the affirmative, and that the fare would be a shilling. The gentleman took his seat in the 'bus, and when it arrived at the Flower Pot in Bishopsgate-st. the cad opened the door and said, "Ve goes no further, sir." "Why, you told me," said the gentleman, "that you went to the Bank." "Ye calls this the Bank, sir." "Oh, very well," said the passenger, giving him a sixpence, "I calls that a shilling." The fellow was so taken aback that he could not say a word, only calling out to the driver, "I say, Bill, if that 'ere chap beats a rum 'un."—[Once a Week.

COLLECTING THE CUSTOMS.

PROGRESS OF THE INQUIRY.

VIEWS OF THE AUDITOR AND ASSISTANT AUDITOR—FEES TO INSPECTORS.

The Custom-house Commission made some progress with the inquiry yesterday, and brought about what will probably be an enforcement of the law by which steamship owners are compelled to pay the fees for night permits to discharge steamships to the Collector, instead of feeing the inspectors directly, as at present. As soon as Collector Arthur issues the order for a return to the old system the payment of a fee to an inspector will be regarded as a misdemeanor on the part of the person paying the fee; and an inspector makes himself liable to punishment for receiving a fee.

The Custom-house Reform Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and a deputation of steamship owners were before the commission. The Chamber of Commerce committee, consisting of Jackson S. Schultz, Thomas Barbour, and Daniel C. Robbins, and S. B. Eaton, the counsel of the committee, called at 12 o'clock to ask when it would be the pleasure of the Commission to give them a hearing. After half an hour's private consultation the committee withdrew, with the exception of Mr. Eaton, the counsel, who remained through the public session. Mr. Schultz and his colleagues will be given a hearing as soon as the Custom-house officials have been examined.

When the regular work of the session opened, a letter was read from Assistant Appraiser Raush, stating that the assessments for political purposes last Fall were paid to H. Sperry, a later contractor of the department, instead of to ex-Appraiser French, as he had incorrectly stated the day before. S. B. Ogden, Auditor of the Collector's office, was sworn by Mr. Robinson before giving his testimony, the Secretary of the Treasury having ordered that hereafter the examination of witnesses be made under oath. He was examined as to the duties of his office and the men employed. There were 99 clerks and officers in the Auditor's office. They would compare favorably in efficiency, he thought, with the general class of clerks in outside business. If he could have just such men as he could select the force might be reduced 20 per cent. He thought none of the bureaus in the Auditor's office could be combined. If the work of the Naval Officer were given to the Auditor's office, the Auditor being made independent of the Collector, the Auditor's office would act as the check on the Collector, and the work would be done with less force than is now employed in the Naval office. There was no objection to merging the two. It was necessary for the Collector to have a check on his own accounts, and this his Auditor supplied. The Naval Officer was a check on the Collector as to receipts but not as to disbursements. He knew of no sinecure in his department. The Appeal and Protest Bureau employed a very large force. The law might be amended so as to allow a general appeal and protest instead of a special one on each question. He was opposed to the system of compound duties. No entirely specific system could be devised, but all duties could be made *ad valorem*. He had not been able to detect employés of their received fees or gratuities from merchants. The Appraisers' and Assessors' departments offered the greatest opportunities for this corrupting influence. As the work stood he could not dispense with more than six clerks.

S. B. Jacobs, Assistant Auditor, said he had been in the Custom-house seven years. It was his duty to supervise all accounts rendered to the department in Washington. There were eight men directly under him supervising the disbursements—as small a force as he could do business with. He was required to be on duty from 8:30 a. m. till 5:30 p. m. There were 22 clerks liquidating vessels. If he could have such men as he would choose he could do with three less. He could spare three men in the room of Customs Accounts. In the Bureau of Statistics there were 20 men, including four whose duty it was to furnish information to the press. He did not know how these last were engaged. He only knew by hearsay that they were paid by assignments and others for information furnished. This force could be reduced 5 or 10 per cent. The salaries paid would probably now command better men if the positions were filled by competitive examinations. Every man in the whole service had to pass before the witness in receiving payment on his salaries. There were between 1,200 and 1,300 in the service. As a rule the men made a good appearance, but he could pick out men whom he would not like to have in his office. In his office the clerks came at 10 a. m. and remained until 3 p. m. He knew of no good reason why they should not be compelled to work from 9 till 4. There was much talk of bribes being taken by the clerks, which was probably true, but he had no evidence against any clerk. In his opinion money was paid for information out of his office, but the clerks took care to keep a knockdown of it from him. The merchants and brokers paid the 20 cent fees, which amounted to $20,000 a month, to the cashier, but so far as he could see there was no check on the cashier. He thought the system of keeping accounts in the Auditor's office the best that could be devised. After seven years' experience with it he believed that the system was perfect. Appointments through political influence were prejudicial to the efficiency of the service. The Naval office served as a check on the accounts of receipts for customs, but was of little use as a check on the Auditor's office, the department at Washington not finding that incorrect. Col. Burt had stated that the Naval Office saved the Government $1,500,000 yearly in the correction of errors made in the Collector's office. So far as Mr. Jacobs knew there was a great many errors found between the Naval Office and the Customs office. Mr. Jacobs's examination will be completed to-day.

At 3 o'clock a deputation of steamship owners and agents called, representing the White Star, Hamburg, North German Lloyd, Williams & Guion, State, Red Star, Atlas, and other lines. After a private consultation the reporters were admitted to the conference. Collector Arthur, Assistant Cole for Lydecker, and Surveyor Sharpe were present. The steamship representatives discussed an arrangement by which goods placed on the dock should not be sent to the general order warehouse till 48 hours after the steamship had been reclivered at the Custom-house.

Collector Arthur explained the situation and his responsibilities in the matter. Prior to 1872 night permits to discharge steamships could not be obtained. The companies claimed it was necessary to discharge at night so as to get the ships ready to meet their sailing engagements. A law was passed granting them night permits on the payment of a fee of $10, which the Collector was to turn over to the inspector who thus worked outside of the regular hours, and to cover the responsibility which the Collector would incur if goods were exposed to thieves on the docks, and at the same time to save their customers the expense of having the goods taken directly from the ship to the general order warehouse. The inspectors agreed—and put this in their bills of lading—to deliver the goods to general order for 48 hours after they were placed on the dock. Having obtained the night permit privilege, Gen. Arthur said the companies wanted also to save themselves the general order expense. He had not pressed this in many instances by leaving goods into general order as soon as they were placed on the dock. He recommended that any steamship company suffering from having goods carried usually into general order should call on the Collector, who would supply the remedy so long as this could be done without being detrimental to the revenue. He said: "This is one of the cases where the Custom-house is blamed if it does and is blamed if it doesn't." The merchants—and within the 48 hours the steamship companies—complain that goods are being carried into general order, and the warehousemen and the truckmen and the steamship companies—after the 48 hours have expired—complain that goods are not more vigorously pushed into general order, so as to clear the wharves and make room for business. When Mr. Radcliffe of the State line asked if the Collector would give the companies the 48 hours' grace, Gen. Arthur said it would be absurd for him to give free license in such a matter. Circumstances must govern the leaving of goods on the wharf.

Mr. Coffin of the White Star line stated that his company paid the inspectors working on night permits about $30 each for discharging a vessel, and the company expected that the inspector would carry on the work of the harbor during the night and favor the company by not marking goods into general delivery during the first 48 hours. Collector Arthur said this last service could not be construed as being a service paid for. The money paid the inspector was for the night work. The inspector had the power to hurry goods into general order, and it be abused the owner the proper plan was to see the Collector. It was suggested that the agents wait on Gen. Sharpe, and perhaps make an arrangement about the fees to be paid the inspectors and the matter of leaving goods on the wharves. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Turnure urged that the system of paying the inspectors must be discontinued. It was contrary to law, and there were complaints that the steamship companies discharged the whole service. If they paid their money to the Collector for their night permits their the inspector would get his extra remuneration legally and properly, and any steamship agent giving a gratuity to an inspector would be guilty of a misdemeanor. It is probable that Collector Arthur will issue an order to this effect at once.

A BOSTON SLANDER SUIT.

BOSTON, May 2.—The case of Francis A. Perry against Ed. F. Porter for libel and slander, in which $30,000 damages is sued for, was begun to-day. The plaintiff is a member of the Suffolk County bar, and the defendant is a well-known business man, ex-State Senator, and Alderman. Both men are members of the same church. The case excites great interest.

CENTENNIAL PRIZES AWARDED.

HALIFAX, May 2.—The Centennial Exhibition prizes were presented to the winners by the Lieutenant-Governor this afternoon at the Academy of Music. Speeches were made by the Governor, Chief Justice, Provincial Secretary, the American Consul, and others.

NAVY INTELLIGENCE.

WASHINGTON, May 2.—Capt. Barrett, commanding the United States steamer Plymouth, in a dispatch to the Navy Department, dated April 27 at Vicksburg, gives further particulars of the trip of the Plymouth up the Mississippi River. She remained at Natchez from the 15th to the 18th of April, where the officers were most hospitably entertained. There was a drill at general headquarters on the Plymouth, with which the officers were much pleased. The vessel reached Grand Gulf on the evening of the 19th, and the next day a large excursion came down from Port Gibson, accompanied by artillery, which saluted the ship, and the salute was returned. The officers were invited to a grand ball at Port Gibson, and a complimentary train was placed at their service. Along the banks at different points from Grand Gulf to Vicksburg crowds were assembled to see the steamer pass. Two steamers, with the city authorities on board, met the Plymouth below Vicksburg, and conveyed her to her anchorage. The same hospitality was extended during the entire stay of the vessel at that port as at other places. His Excellency Gov. Stone of Mississippi visited the ship, and was received with all the honors due to his rank. Capt. Barrett had numerous inquiries as to the best ship-yard, ship-at-life and places, but he had to decline. The Plymouth left Vicksburg on Saturday last, for Natchez, en route to New-Orleans.

Gen. Moses R. Henderson is detached from Centennial duty and ordered to Ordnance duty at the Boston Navy-Yard, in place of Gen. Felix Cassidy, detached from that yard and placed on waiting orders.

The scarlet fever and measles have become epidemic at Annapolis, Md. Rear Admiral Rodgers, Superintendent of the Naval Academy, has established at that institution certain sanitary regulations, prepared by Medical Inspector Gibson, to prevent the introduction of these diseases among the students therein. The regulations provide that no young persons or children residing outside of the Academy limits shall be admitted within the limits without a pass, and persons residing outside having such communicable diseases at their residences will not be allowed to communicate with any one at the Academy. Officers and others residing within the grounds are requested to restrain the members of their families from visiting places of amusement and dwellings of persons affected with communicable diseases. Cadets will not be permitted to leave the Academy limits, nor to have any communication within the grounds with persons in whose families there is measles, scarlatina, or other communicable diseases.

PORT ROYAL, S. C., May 2.—The United States monitor Catskill, Lieut. Joseph Marthon commanding, arrived here yesterday from Savannah.

FORTRESS MONROE, Va., May 2.—The United States steamer Dispatch sailed from here this afternoon for the Mediterranean.

ARCHITECTURE AT UNION COLLEGE.

SECOND LECTURE BY MR. POTTER.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., May 2.—Mr. William A. Potter, late Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, delivered the last of his lectures on Architecture at Union College this afternoon. This second lecture was devoted to the æsthetic in architecture, and to the practice of the art. The line of the speaker's remarks was as follows:

In the remains of ancient architecture a very complete record of the peoples who built them is found. While they were built for special purposes, the fact that in them it is possible to read the more marked traits and characteristics of these peoples is beyond contradiction. Obliterate every chisel-mark of this writing from the walls of Egypt, and every inscribed tablet from the buildings of Greece and Rome, annihilate every trace of the history or traditions of these peoples, and we should in the architectural remains before us read their predominating characteristics as plainly as from a printed page. It is possible to read these records in architecture because all traits of nations become more marked as they increase in culture and become more highly developed, and when so developed their attention is turned to matters of art, and it stamps those characteristics on its works. In the permanence and applicability of architecture to meet the wants of life, we find further reason for being able to trace these records.

The appreciation of beauty in architecture or in any art depends not only upon the degree of beauty in the object perceived, but in the intellectual and s