chair at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning, should summarily end the whole business.

The secret was so well kept that no whisper of it got abroad during the night. The whips were consulted, and it was they who settled the hour of 9 as most fit for the purpose, because at 9 the men who had been on duty during the night would not have gone home, and those who were to relieve them would have just arrived. At that hour, therefore, nearly the whole available strength of the two parties acting in concert would be present. The Speaker, for his part, had taken upon himself this new duty willingly, but with a deep sense of responsibility; and had expressed a wish that he should be as strongly supported as possible; hence, among other obvious reasons, the desire for a full House. Men turned up with exemplary punctuality, and shortly before nine it began to be bruited about that something was going to happen. Members who had been on guard all night could not but guess that a crisis had arrived when it was suavely hinted to them by their officers that they had better not go just then. The Irish, meantime, were left in such profound ignorance of their approaching fate that Mr. Parnell was absent. The irony of fate ordained that at the most critical moment of their existence the Obstructionists should be left to the guidance of Mr. Justin McCarthy, among whose many talents and virtues that of a gift for command or swift readiness for an emergency can hardly be reckoned. Fate had further so ordered matters that Mr. Biggar should be speaking when the decisive moment arrived—Mr. Biggar, who, more than any one person, combines in himself all the most odious and least respectable attributes of the professional Obstructionist; who is of all others the deariest speaker, and the man most openly and offensively contemptuous of those usages and manners which in former days were so adhered to in the midst of the bitterest conflicts that the House never lost its air of being an assembly of well-bred men.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT.

Just before 9 the House, which, under the infliction of Mr. Biggar's oratory, had been almost empty, began to fill. Members poured in on both sides in unwonted numbers. The leaders, Liberal and Conservative alike, quietly but rapidly filled the two front benches. Mr. Gladstone's entrance on the stroke of the hour was the signal for a burst of cheering, which was renewed and became still more general as the Speaker appeared. The cheers brought in with a rush every member who was within the precincts of the House, and they broke out afresh as it was perceived that the Speaker, on assuming the chair, did not sit, but remained standing in his place. Before the apparition of the Speaker on his feet Mr. Biggar himself had no choice but to take his seat. Then, in a firm voice, and keeping his eyes fixed on the manuscript in his hand, the Speaker addressed the House in these terms:

The motion for leave to bring in the Protection of Person and Property (Ireland) bill has now been under discussion for about five days. The present sitting, having commenced on Monday last at four o'clock, has continued until this (Wednesday) morning—a period of no less than forty-one hours—the House having been occupied with discussions upon repeated motions for adjournment. However tedious these discussions, the motions have been supported by small minorities in opposition to the general sense of the House. [Loud cheers.] A crisis has now arisen [cheers] which demands the prompt interposition of the Chair and of the House. [Renewed cheers.] The usual rules have been proved powerless to insure orderly and effective debate. An important measure recommended in Her Majesty's speech nearly a month since, and declared to be urgent in the interests of the State by a decisive majority, is being arrested by the action of an inconsiderable minority [cheers], the members of which have resorted to those modes of obstruction which have been recognized by the House as a Parliamentary offence. The dignity, credit and authority of this House are seriously threatened, and it is necessary that they should be vindicated. [Cheers.] Under the operation of the accustomed rules and methods of procedure the legislative powers of the House are paralyzed. A new and exceptional course is imperatively demanded, and I am satisfied that I shall best carry out the will of the House, and that I may rely on its support, if I decline to call upon any more members to speak and at once proceed to put the several questions to the House. [Immense cheering, and a few feeble cries of "No! no."] I feel assured that the House will be prepared to exercise all its powers in giving effect to these proceedings. [Cheers.] Future measures for insuring orderly debate I must leave to the judgment of the House, but I may add that it will be necessary either for the House itself to assume more effectual control over its debates or to entrust greater authority to the Chair. [Cheers.]

I quote the Speaker's words verbatim as being by far the most memorable words which for many generations have been heard from the chair. What I have to say about them I will say a moment later. They fell on the Irish like a thunderbolt. The comparison is trite, but nothing else will do. That disorderly band, taken unawares, its leader absent, its programme providing for no such event as this, were thrown into confusion which became helpless consternation as the Speaker, in pursuance of his announcement, at once put the question on motion for adjournment, and called the division. Not even an inarticulate cry was heard from the obstructives. They filed out dumb and demented into the lobby. Returning, they heard the numbers announced, and without an instant's delay saw the Speaker again on his feet, putting the main question. Mr. Justin McCarthy—it is impossible not to be sorry for him—tried to protest, but the Speaker stood like a rock, and Mr. McCarthy's protest and the cries which his colleagues raised in support of it broke vainly against the firm purpose which confronted them. Shouts of "Order" swelled through the House—a member who stands when the Speaker is up is hopelessly out of order—to which the Irish answered by counter cries of order and then by shrieks of "Privilege," "privilege." Mr. McCarthy never forgot himself, but others of his party shook their fists at the Speaker, and there were exclamations which one would rather not repeat. Nothing availed. After a moment of despairing conference the baffled and beaten minority, Mr. McCarthy at their head, strode out of the House; each bowing fiercely to the Speaker. The question was put, leave to bring in the bill was granted, Mr. Forster advancing to the bar brought it in, and it was read a first time, one week, two days and seventeen hours from the date of his first moving, and during a sitting which had lasted from beginning to end just forty-one hours.

THE STATE OF PUBLIC FEELING.

Now I do not suppose that this piece of decisive good sense on the part of the Speaker will seem to Americans anything like so startling a matter as it does to many Englishmen. We have had to deal with mobs in Parliament before now; and with mobs out of Parliament; and have disposed of both in a sufficiently summary and energetic way. But such an exercise of authority here in England is taken very seriously. The grave consultations and long hesitation about it shows that, and the comments upon it since show the general feeling not less plainly. Beyond doubt the general feeling is one of approval; both in the House, which is most concerned, and out of it; but this approval does not lessen the feeling that the act is a very serious one indeed. It was challenged at once in the House when the next sitting, fixed for noon the same day, began. It is discussed, and to some extent, challenged, in the papers to-day, though nothing like hostility is discoverable in any journals except the Irish papers, and one or two Liberal papers in London which have developed of late a gift for criticism that too often descends to cavil. It is certain the Speaker would not have ventured upon such an exercise of authority without moral encouragement, or without the assurance of support from the House as a whole. He acted, in fact, simply as the agent of the House. His act gave effect to the opinion of the vast majority; and if he needs justification, that is his justification. Nobody—and this is the odd thing—would have whispered a complaint if some other speaker, or this same speaker, had ever done the same thing before. Having been done now, and being sustained, as it will be, should a vote be taken, by the House, it forms a precedent which will be decisive for the future, and will be cited in proof some years hence of the existence of such an authority. It seldom occurs to the English mind that precedent, for which they cry out so plaintively, must itself in the beginning have come into existence without precedent. It is their dislike to arguing from principle which attaches them so blindly to precedent. In this case they have made a clutch at a principle and established a sound one, nor will the Radical carping and clamor about *coups d'état* and revolution affect the general approval of it. What people in general saw was that the forms of the House were being used to destroy the honor and usefulness of the House. They welcome and applaud an act of vigor which, if it overrides forms, restores that efficiency to secure which forms exist, and the House itself exists. The rights of minorities are as safe as ever, and the rights of majorities, which had disappeared, have been restored.

RESTRAINTS PROPOSED.

I cannot enter upon Mr. Gladstone's proposal for preventing obstruction in the future, but I quote it in order to make one remark:

Before moving the adjournment of the House, I wish to give a notice which has reference, I need not say, to the appeal made by yourself from the chair. I propose to move to-morrow (Thursday) as follows, with reference to the better conduct of the business of the House on future occasions: If, upon notice given, a motion be made that the state of public business is urgent, and if, on the call of the Speaker, forty members shall support it by rising in their places, the Speaker shall forthwith put the question, no debate, amendment or adjournment being allowed; and if on the voices being given he shall without doubt perceive that the Noes have it, his decision shall not be challenged. But if otherwise, a division shall forthwith be taken, and if the question be determined in the affirmative by a majority of not less than three to one, the powers of the House for the regulation of business on the several stages of bills, and upon motions and all other matters, shall be and remain with the Speaker until the Speaker shall declare that the state of public business is no longer urgent. [Cheers.] That is the first resolution, and I propose to follow it by a second, namely, That the state of public business is urgent.

This remark, viz.: that it goes far beyond the cloture or previous question or any other known form of facilitating Parliamentary business in any country. It was brought in without any promise of support from the Conservatives. Sir Stafford Northcote was willing to accept it, but the Fourth Party, under the head of that experienced legislator, Lord Randolph Churchill, kicked against it. Lord Randolph wants to do a little obstruction on his own account when the Land bill comes on. Some of the Radicals dislike it, for other reasons, as much as he, and it looks to-day as if it could not be passed without amendment, nor even then without a long struggle; the Coercion bill waiting meantime. But it may be taken for granted that some efficient measure for dealing with obstruction will be adopted by a great majority. The stringency of Mr. Gladstone's proposal is only an evidence of the inevitable reaction against the looseness of the existing rules.

G. W. S.

AFFAIRS AT ALBANY.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

SYMPATHY FOR IRELAND—MR. BROOKS PROPOSES TO PURIFY PRIMARY ELECTIONS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, Feb. 14.—A stranger strolling into the Assembly Chamber to-night might have thought that an enthusiastic meeting to raise funds for the Irish Land League was in progress. It was in fact a debate over a resolution expressing sympathy with Ireland in her present struggle with England. There are many Irish-born members of the Assembly, and consequently the woes of Ireland for the past five centuries were feelingly described. The speeches were, with few exceptions, attuned to the Celtic ear. Mr. Alvord unfeelingly hinted that the remarks of many of the supporters of the resolution had a campaign odor. He also opposed the adoption of the resolution on the ground that it was outside of the province of the Legislature, asserting that Congress was the only proper body to pass on such a National matter. This brought Erastus Brooks to his feet, who argued that it was right for Americans to express their sympathy for all oppressed people. A score of speakers, among whom were Messrs. Niles, Raines, Spinola, Newman, Pratt and Turck, followed with speeches expressive of keen sympathy with Ireland. Scraps of Irish history, Irish eloquence and Irish poetry were ingeniously welded into all the speeches. Republicans and Democrats vied with each other in pressing the resolution. The buncombe nature of some of the speeches excited Mr. Alvord's wrath. His attitude became more and more contemptuous as the debate went on. Finally he arose and said that if the members who had been making the speeches would only hold a Land League meeting in the Capitol Park he would make as sensational a speech about the wrongs of Ireland as any of them—make as many allusions to Robert Emmet as any of them, and howl louder than all together concerning Gladstone's Coercion bill. He had a little Irish blood himself, about 200 years back—and therefore sincerely sympathized with the Irish people, but he remembered that the American people struggled for three years with England before there was the faintest expression of sympathy with them; thousands of Americans had died for their country in the interval. But how was it with Ireland and her leaders, no sooner did the British Government show a little firmness than the Land League collapsed. Its leaders fled from Parliament. Parnell had fled to Paris, the speaker said, to protect his dollars. If Ireland would go upon the battle-field and fight for her liberties as Americans had done, then there would be wisdom in presenting such a resolution. In conclusion, Mr. Alvord moved to refer the resolution to the Committee on Federal Relations. This was defeated by a vote of 16 to 47.

A vote upon the resolution itself was then taken. In the course of it Mr. Low, of Niagara County, said he should vote against the resolution because he did not propose to encourage rebellion in Ireland. The resolution was adopted by a vote 67 to 19.

The bill appropriating $100,000 toward the new Capitol was considered in the Senate. Senator Astor made a forcible speech in opposition to its passage. He said that it was clear that the present building was unfit for the purpose for which it was built. It was dark in the lower part and too light in the upper, and no attention had been paid to such a simple matter as ventilation. The rooms were rearranged. He thought it would be more economical to build another structure than to attempt to finish the present one. Little interest was taken in the bill by the other Senators and it was ordered to a third reading.

Erastus Brooks introduced in the Assembly his bills for the purification of primary elections. They were five in number. The first confines the primary meetings to legal voters. The second declares that the sheriffs in announcing annual State elections shall at the same time announce the primary election. The third that the voting shall be by ballot. The fourth that State Inspectors shall preside; and the fifth that they shall be members of a uniform line. It will be perceived that Mr. Brooks thus provides for two elections—one for the nomination of candidates and the other for their election.

The following bills were introduced in the Assembly: By Mr. Draper—Amending the charter of Albany. By Mr. Moller—Providing for the incorporation of companies to construct and operate railroads in foreign countries. By Mr. Peck—To impose a tax on the sale of oleomargarine and adulterated cheese. By Mr. Butler—To repeal the law creating the Capitol Commission.

Mr. Moller's bill for the formation of railroad companies to operate in foreign countries authorizes any number of persons, not less than ten, a majority of whom shall be inhabitants of this State, to form a company for constructing and operating in any foreign country a railroad or railroads, or operate any railroad already constructed in whole or in part, and maintain and operate in connection therewith a line or lines or telegraph, steamboats or sailing vessels. Articles of association, not to exceed 100 years, shall be filed with the Secretary of State, and the fee for filing the same shall be $50. The company is amenable to the laws of the government of the country in which it is proposed to operate. The stock must be full paid.

There must be, at least, one meeting of the directors in New-York City each year. The other provisions for the election of directors and filling vacancies are the same as in the general railroad law. No stock is transferable until it is fully paid. All corporations formed under this act shall be subject to taxation upon the amount of real or personal property owned by such corporations within this State.

In open executive session in the Senate the following nominations were referred:

For Managers of the Western House of Refuge for Juvenile Delinquents—Jonah D. Decker, Emory B. Chase, Ira L. Otis and D. S. Brown.

For Commissioner of the State Board of Charities—Theodore D. Bronson.

The following bills were introduced in the Senate: To increase the number of General Term and Supreme Court Judges. Appropriating $38,000 to the Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents in New-York.

THE NORTHAMPTON BANK ROBBERS.

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Feb. 14.—"Red" Leary and "Billy" Conners were to-day arraigned before Chief-Justice Brigham, and pleaded not guilty to robbing the Northampton Bank in 1876. They were ordered to be ready for trial on March 21. They had no counsel, and personally objected to so speedy a trial. "Smang" Draper will be tried with Leary and Conners.

ALMA SOCIABLE.

The members of the Alma Sociable met last evening at the house of Miss Bissell, No. 16 West Forticth-st. These sociables have been held once every fortnight throughout the winter, and have been successful and enjoyable entertainments. The music last night was furnished by Giesemann and the supper by Clark. The floral decorations were handsome, and many of the costumes of the ladies were elaborate. About seventy-five persons were present. Among them were Miss Florence W. Bissell, Miss Josie Bomeister, Miss Ida C. Olmstead, Miss Belle Dyett, Miss Nellie Phelps, Miss F. G. Pittman, Miss Payne, Miss Alice Payne, Miss Lizzie Stewart, Miss Hignet, Miss Gertrude Sturtevant, Miss Annie Erwin, Miss Ada C. Cleveland, Miss Sara Chamberlain, Miss Ida Smith, P. St. George Bissell, Lawrence D. Olmstead, Louis N. Phelps, H. T. Lockwood, J. Wray Cleveland, G. E. Armstrong, Dr. A. H. Doty, Adrian Richard, Curtis Gately, J. C. Watson, H. Leeds, jr., William Newbrugh, Louis Cunningham, Dr. Louis W. Schmitz, and Edwin Tucker.

THE WRECK OF THE SEAWANHAKA.

Judge Choate yesterday handed down a decision in the matter of the Long Island North Shore Passenger and Freight Transportation Company. It was an application by the owners of the Seawanhaka, which was burned in Hell Gate in June, 1880, to be permitted to take the benefits of the act of Congress for limiting the liability of owners of vessels to the value of the wreck. Judge Choate granted the petition. The wreck of the Seawanhaka was sold last fall for about $1,700. Under the decision all claims granted by the court will have recourse against that amount only.

WASTING THE PUBLIC MONEY.

EXCESSIVE COST OF POLICE COURTS.

GREAT INCREASE IN EXPENSES—SMALL RETURNS OF FINES—POLICE JUSTICES WHO ARE IGNORANT OF THE LAW—THE BANEFUL INFLUENCE OF POLITICIANS—NEED OF REFORM—FAILURE TO ENFORCE THE EXCISE LAW.

The salaries of the Judges and court officers of this city amount to about $1,500,000 annually, an increase of 400 per cent since 1860. The Police Courts are responsible for an undue proportion of this increase. The failure to suppress crime is due largely to the inefficiency of the courts. The influence of Aldermen and other ward politicians secures exemption from punishment of many criminals. Many of the Police Judges are ignorant of law and neglectful of their duties, but they receive extravagant salaries, while their clerks and attendants, who are generally political hangers-on, are also paid excessive sums. The Police Justices get $8,000 per year, while the Mayor and Controller of the city are paid only $10,000 each, and a Dock Commissioner only $3,000. The Clerk of the Court of Special Sessions gets $6,000 per year, and the clerks of the several courts draw $4,000 each from the city.

INEFFICIENT POLICE COURTS.

AN ASYLUM OF POLITICIANS—JUSTICE TEMPERED BY ALDERMEN—WHY CRIME IS NOT SUPPRESSED—THE PERSONNEL OF THE COURTS—SALARIES THAT ARE NOT EARNED.

The administration of justice in this city costs the taxpayers about $1,500,000 annually. This sum is exclusive of Federal courts, and also of the cost of maintaining prisons, asylums and reformatories, which cost the city a still larger sum. The sum of $1,500,000 includes only the salaries of judges and their clerks and attendants and the law officers of the city. In 1860 the salaries of all the city officers amounted to only $2,800,000. Since that time the work of the courts has increased 33 per cent, but the salaries of the court officials have increased 400 per cent. No city in the world, according to a recent authority on the subject, pays its minor court officials so lavishly as the City of New-York. The expenses of the Police Courts and the District Courts are proportionately greater than those of the higher courts. The Civil District Courts cost the city $185,000 per annum in salaries, and last year they turned into the City Treasury $17,000 as the amount of fees collected. Justice Callahan, with 2,336 cases before him, collected $2,716, while Justice Lengbein, with 1,899 cases, collected $3,532 in fees. The Police Courts cost the city in salaries $173,690 per annum, exclusive of policemen in attendance, and last year they collected $53,622.

There is a well-founded belief that the expenses of the Police Courts can be largely reduced and the administration of justice in them greatly improved. There are eleven Police Justices in this city who are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Board of Aldermen. They receive salaries of $8,000 each per annum, and the term of office is ten years. It was supposed that lawyers of ability and high standing in the community would be induced to accept the office, and that the administration of justice would be raised out of the influence of ward politics. It cannot be said, however, that the operations of the law have met the expectations of its framers. Lawyers of ability and high standing have not been able to accept places on the Police Court benches for the reason that such places have not been tendered them.

The large salary, long term and ease with which the work can be shirked, make the position a desirable one for politicians, and the original provision in the law limiting the appointments to lawyers was stricken out. Police Justices obtain their appointments as rewards for political services; and the administration of the law is made more or less subservient to partisan politics. Offenders against the law, as a rule, have their first experience with the administration of justice in the lower courts. If they find the scales unevenly balanced, or that money or political influence will secure them freedom from the restraints of the law, they lose that respect for it which is essential to the suppression of crime. The great increase in crime in this city during and following the days of Tweed is proof of this fact.

THE COURTS RESPONSIBLE FOR CRIME.

The criminal judges, of course, are not altogether to blame for the great prevalence of crime in this city. The police are not blameless. There are defects in the law, but there are still greater defects in the administration. The Excise law is an old illustration of this fact. Police Justice Kilbreth has given it as his opinion that of all the cases that come before him at least 90 per cent are due directly or indirectly to the use of liquor, and yet of all the laws governing the city there is probably not one that is less regarded than that for the proper regulation of the liquor traffic. The keepers of groggeries all have political influence and control votes, and for that reason they escape punishment. But the violators of the Excise laws are not the only offenders that escape justice, as lottery dealers and gamblers and keepers of houses of bad character have almost a like exemption.

"The law of the State," says an ex-District-Attorney, "governing the Police Courts stands in need of but little alteration. What is required is that the Police Justices should obey the law. I think that one of the principal reasons why crime in this city is not suppressed is that the Police Magistrates either have been seriously ignorant of their duties or have wilfully neglected them in several respects."

A committee of the Legislature which investigated this subject reported:

"Police Justices should be lawyers of certain duration of practice. Only long experience, coupled with eminent ability, can compensate for the lack of legal training and legal knowledge. Scattered throughout the reported decisions of the Police Justices will be found indications of ignorance of the principles of law. The popular theory that common sense is all that is needed in a Police Justice is absolutely false. Common sense is a prerequisite, but a knowledge of common and statute law is likewise essential." This recommendation was not acted upon by the Legislature, although made four years ago, and the result has been very unfortunate for the proper administration of the law. All of the recent appointments to the Police Court bench have been of politicians who made no pretence to knowing anything of law. This has been partly due to the necessity of obtaining confirmation by the Board of Aldermen. Mayor Cooper nominated Colfort A. Hand, a well-known lawyer, for Police Justice, but he quickly withdrew the name and sent in the name of a well-known politician instead, as only such persons could be confirmed. These men are under obligations to Aldermen and party leaders, and being professional politicians themselves they, in too many cases, administer their offices in a way to benefit their party friends regardless of justice. "One of the great difficulties with which Police Justices have had to struggle, as have all the other authorities in dealing with crime," a Legislative committee reported, "has been the incessant interference of politicians in behalf of prisoners. Police Justices all testify to the annoyance growing out of this matter, and it is undoubtedly one which should be rectified."

It is a common sight in the police courts of the city now to see Aldermen and other politicians sitting on the bench with the Police Justices. Among persons who have recently occupied this prominent place in the eyes of criminals, have been such men as ex-Senators John Fox and Michael Norton, and persons against whom untried indictments for complicity with well-known crimes are now in the pigeon-holes of law offices of the city. A business so lucrative that for stealing a small sum of money cannot be expected to have much influence, when sitting beside two magistrate, perhaps influencing his case, is a man who is known to have stolen hundreds of thousands of dollars from the city.

ALDERMEN ON THE SIDE OF LAW-BREAKERS.

If a man is arrested by the police for some crime, and he happens to have "influence," he immediately sends to his friend, the Alderman, and the Alderman goes to the Justice, who, too often, discharges the prisoner, perhaps without examination, "for want of sufficient evidence." The policeman who arrested him, and who perhaps has been kept from his rest for hours in order to be present at the trial, is jeered at by the discharged prisoner and perhaps sworn at by the Alderman, who threatens if he arrests the man again to report the policeman to the Captain or Commissioner as the case may be. The Commissioner is dependent upon the Alderman, perhaps, for his own office, and is only too willing to comply with his request. Many police officers have found themselves suddenly transferred to the "goat district" or some other undesirable place because of an excess of zeal in detecting or arresting criminals who have political "influence," but more often they are reproved by Justices for bringing persons before them on such "flimsy evidence."

A case in point was of very recent occurrence. A lottery dealer was arrested and taken before a Police Justice. The Justice discharged the man for "want of evidence." The case was then taken before the Grand Jury then in session and the man was quickly indicted and District-Attorney Rollins had him arraigned in court. But rather than stand a trial in General Sessions upon the same evidence which the Police Justice declared insufficient, the lottery dealer pleaded guilty and was sentenced to a fine of $500, with a term of imprisonment. It is unusual, however, to take a case before the Grand Jury after the prisoner has been discharged in the police court.

In a recent report of the Board of Police Justices it appears that of the persons arraigned for violations of the lottery laws ninety-nine were discharged where ninety were held for examination or trial. In cases of gambling forty-one persons were discharged where twenty were held. In 1880 68,477 persons were arraigned before the Police Justices, and in 1879 65,344. So common is the use of political influence in the police courts that some persons make a living by securing the influence of politicians to get prisoners discharged. Another abuse of power and violation of the law is the discharge of prisoners after they have been convicted and sent to prison when they have served only a small part of their sentence.

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PRESENT BOARD.

The Board of Police Justices is now composed of Butler H. Bixby, Charles A. Flammer, Hugh Gardner, James T. Kilbreth, Bankson T. Morgan, Henry Murray, Marcus Otterbourg, Jacob M. Patterson, jr., Maurice J. Power, Solon B. Smith and Benjamin C. Wandell. Mr. Bixby is the only one of the old Police Justices who was reappointed under the new law in 1873. He is a brother of Senator Bixby, who has long been a prominent Democratic politician, and before his appointment as Police Justice he kept a bonded warehouse. Mr. Flammer was a lawyer by profession before his appointment as Police Justice. Hugh Gardner is perhaps the oldest man on the bench. He was inspector of post office stations at the time of his appointment as Police Justice. James T. Kilbreth is a lawyer, and was in the office of Alderman Billings at the time of his appointment. Mr. Morgan is said to have had no regular business at the time of his appointment, but was admitted to the bar last year. Henry Murray was originally a policeman, and later became a professional politician. He now carries on a coke business in addition to his duties as Police Justice. Marcus Otterbourg was admitted to the bar the year before he became Police Justice. He is the leader of a German Democratic organization. Jacob M. Patterson, jr., was an Excise Commissioner, and resigned when Owen Murphy fled. He was afterward made Clerk of the Board of Aldermen, and was appointed a Police Justice by Mayor Cooper. Maurice J. Power is engaged in the business of brass founder. He was at one time Clerk of the Marine Court, but was removed. He has been a professional politician also, and was made a Police Justice by Mayor Cooper. Solon B. Smith was formerly subpœna server in the Court of Special Sessions. Benjamin C. Wandell was a retired merchant when appointed, and has never been known as a politician. Not one of the present justices was a lawyer of any experience or distinction when appointed, and the majority of them were wholly ignorant of law, although they are frequently called upon to deal with cases of felony and misdemeanor and decide upon the construction of statutes.

The expenses of the Police Courts are very heavy. Each Justice receives $8,000 a year, although a legislative committee, after investigation, reported that good lawyers could be got to fill the places for $5,000 per annum. The duties of the office are not onerous. According to the present practice, the Justices sit every other week, and some of them spend a good part of their time in Albany and elsewhere. Speaking upon this point, ex-District-Attorney George Bliss recently remarked: "Out of the 365 days in the year, the Police Justices do not, on the average, do one place act to exceed 220 days in the year, unless to volunteer to open Court late at night to discharge some politician from the station-house."

The Court of Special Sessions, where three Justices are supposed to sit, is often adjourned because Justices cannot be found to occupy the bench. The clerk of this Court, Charles Blackie, a well-known politician, gets $6,000 a year. His deputy, Ex-Alderman Mommsen, receives $5,000 a year. Then there are also in this Court, which meets for two or three hours on three or four days a week, a stenographer at $2,500, an interpreter at $2,000 a year, three subpœna servers at $2,000 each and a messenger at $1,000, besides a number of police officials. This force could be reduced one-half and the expenses two-thirds by consolidating the duties of the officials named. The clerk and deputy clerk make up the calendar and attend to keeping the records. For this work, in a court which is in session on an average not more than twelve hours in a week, salaries are paid greater than those received by Judges in the United States District Courts. The Deputy County Clerk gets only $3,500 a year; the Commissioners of Accounts, who are supposed to be experts in their profession, get $3,000 a year each; a Commissioner of Docks gets $3,000 a year; W. J. McAlpine, an engineer of high reputation, gets $3,000 a year in the Park Department; the medical superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane receives $2,200 a year. But the Clerk of Special Sessions gets $6,000 a year, and the clerks in the various police courts get $4,000 a year each. "Interpreters," who speak the English language imperfectly, the German language not at all better, and Hungarian tongue, are drawing salaries of $1,200 each. A "court attendant" gets $1,500 a year and "clerks" as assistants" $2,000 a year each. Besides these officials there are detailed to the Police Courts 45 policemen, including 7 round-men and 5 sergeants. These men draw salaries of $1,200 and $1,600. According to a recent report of the Municipal Society and also of a legislative committee "many active policemen are detailed to court duty, which can be efficiently performed by disabled firemen or policemen on half pay. Rarely are the services of an able bodied doorkeeper or messenger required in the courts save to cry out for witnesses or to carry a message."

A police court clerk was recently censured by the Board of Police for being absent from his post for sixteen days. It is claimed by his friends, however, that this was the result of personal pique on the part of one of the Justices, and that other clerks dispose of their time about as they please and nothing is said about it.

The police courts are opened about 9 a. m. and generally adjourned about 11, when the Justices and clerks go away. They sometimes reappear in the afternoon for a short time, but on the average the courts do not sit more than three hours a day. The Special Sessions Justices sit about the same number of days in the year as do the Police Justices, and it is often the case that courts are not held because Justices do not appear.

THE NEW-JERSEY LEGISLATURE.

PROPOSALS TO INCREASE THE POWER OF THE JUDICIARY—THE LUNATIC ASYLUM INVESTIGATION—THE GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 14.—The Legislature began the sixth week of its session this evening. Among the bills introduced was one which authorizes the Judge in any court to discharge a juror from the general panel for any reason satisfactory to the court. The bill is harmless enough in itself, but considered with some others, which propose to vest additional powers in the courts, provokes criticism. The public sentiment in New-Jersey that the judge can do no wrong has led to some dangerous experiments in the way of legislation. Courts have been given all sorts of power to do all sorts of things. They appoint Commissioners of Assessment, perform orphan's court duties, try cases of every kind, civil and criminal; are the Court of Appeals in disputed election cases, and generally attend to quite as much of executive business as they do of judicial. A bill in the Assembly at present is a strong case in point. It provides that hereafter the Common Pleas Judges shall summon the general panel and draw the special panel of jurors. The present law vests the duty in the sheriff, where it has been for 700 years and more. It is argued that the courts have now an influence over juries which makes the latter more than anxious to seize the slightest indication of judicial preference in the most important cases and to act upon it in a blind belief. A judicial autocracy is not relished.

The investigation of the Committee on Lunatic Asylums into the County Asylums has begun at Camden, and has demonstrated at least a questionable state of affairs there. Cruelty to patients was freely alleged at the committee's first session, and the charges were not denied. The asylum system in this State is not of the best. County asylums, where proper care is impossible, are maintained at much expense, while two enormous State asylums are provided for the remaining patients. The State asylums cost more per patient than the county institutions, and in economical counties the patients are detained at the home asylum as far as possible in order to save expense.

There is some doubt whether the Governor will send in his nominations this week. He is in no hurry, and evidently desires to avoid a contest with the Senate. This he can do only by delaying the appointments until late in the session, when the patience of the Senate is pretty well worn out, members are anxious to get home, and the people are tired of the Legislature's long session. It seems certain that Secretary Bradley will be reappointed, and equally certain that some members of the Senate will refuse to aid in giving the arch-Democrat of the State another long lease of official life. Mr. Keisey has no alarm concerning his prospects, and where he is concerned personally his opinion is worth much.

Senator Hobart has said that he will probably ask the Senate to consider the resolution for biennial sessions this week. The opposition is not united, but it has ability and perseverance, and unless the advocates of the scheme manifest more earnestness than they have heretofore it will suffer.

There are probably a score of bills in either house at present introduced to affect, more or less directly, pending litigation in the courts. A debate in the Senate last week on two of these measures showed pretty clearly that members have no very definite ideas on the propriety of making the Legislature a Court of Appeals—their opinions depending largely upon whose parasaps are buttered by the partisanship of the moment.

Governor Ludlow vetoed three Assembly bills to-night—that for building an engine-house in Jersey City, that for patrolling the marsh telegraph in the same city, and that restoring Edward Teel, of the Warren County ring, to citizenship. The Governor was severe on Teel, and this action will prevent the restoration of the other Warren County fugitives to citizenship. In the Senate the Agricultural Experiment Station Appropriation was passed and the General Counties bill referred to a special committee. Governor Ludlow renominated the present Pilot Commissioner. The Assembly rejected the bill providing a penalty for selling trade-marked beer bottles and passed that requiring horse-car companies to give seats to drivers.

CALIFORNIA MINING STOCKS.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 14.—The following are the closing off-it prices of mining stocks to-day:

	Saturday.	Today.		Saturday.	Today.
Alpha	3	3	Mexican	5⅝	5¾
Alta	1⅝	2	Mono	[illegible]	1⅝
Bechtel	[illegible]	[illegible]	Navarro	2	2⅛
Bodie	1⅝	1¾	Northern Belle	12½	13
Best and Belcher	7⅛	7⅛	Ophir	4¾	4
Bonte	6½	7	Original Keystone	1	1⅛
Bullion	1⅜	1⅝	Phoenix	11½	12½
Burwell	2¼	[illegible]	Overman	11	11½
California	1	1	Potosi	2¼	2¼
Chollar	2	2⅛	Savage	2⅛	2¼
Cons. Pacific	1	1	Sierra Nevada	16½	7
Cons. Virginia	15½	15½	Silver King	18	17¾
Crown Point	1⅝	1⅝	Santa Bulwer		11½
Eureka Con.	22½	22	Union Con.	17½	17⅝
Exchequer	1⅛	1⅛	Utah	7⅛	7⅛
Gould and Curry	3⅛	3¼	Yellow Jacket	3⅛	3⅛
Grand Prize	1⅞	1⅝	Scorpion	1⅝	1⅞
Hale and Norcross	4¾	4½	Tuscarora	12½	12½

ZEAL FOR THE SERVICE.—Colonel: Drunk, eh! Very bad beginning for a young soldier! What have you to say for yourself?—Recruit (deprecatingly): Very sorry Colonel, anxious to pass one of awkward squad—took to practice fackings by m'self—did right-about-face too much—got giddy—faint—'bliged to take little drop, sir—restore 'qui'br'um.—[Judy.

GENERAL POLITICAL NEWS.

DEMOCRATIC REORGANIZATION PLANS.

The Committee of One Hundred met last evening at its headquarters, No. 21 West Twenty-fourth-st., to listen to arguments and to receive communications from the various Democratic bodies which had been invited to join in the plan of reorganizing the Democracy of this city. A communication was received from the German Independent Citizens' Association, expressing its sympathy with the general object of the committee, but stating that, on account of nationality, the Association preferred to retain its present organization, and suggesting that a permanent Committee of Conference be appointed to meet with a like committee from that association whenever occasion required.

Emanuel B. Hart, on behalf of the late Irving Hall organization, presented the following as the principal features of the plan proposed by that organization:

First—Primary meetings by election districts.

Second—The meetings to choose their own officers free from prearranged control.

Third—Any Democratic elector, resident of the election district, not affiliated with any hostile organization, may vote without being enrolled previous to the meeting.

Fourth—Vote to be viva voce, each voter to be enrolled, as he votes, and a record made by whom and for whom each vote is given.

Fifth—The term of all committees to end in September of each year, and new conventions and new committees to be chosen then.

Sixth—Elections by the primary meetings to be held simultaneously on a day fixed by the plan.

Seventh—The Assembly District Committee to nominate candidates for Assembly and appoint delegates to all other conventions and to the County Committee.

This plan was advocated at length by Mr. Hart, Maurice J. Power, James B. Oliver, W. S. Andrews and others.

The chairman said that he would be pleased to have a committee selected to meet with the Committee of Twenty-one and discuss the proposed plan of reorganization. This was agreed to, and a Committee of Five from the late Irving Hall organization, headed by Hubert O. Thompson, was selected.

VIEWS OF SENATOR JONES.

AN EXTRA SESSION NOT PROBABLE—PROSPERITY OF NEVADA.

A TRIBUNE reporter met Senator Jones, of Nevada, in the rotunda of the St. James Hotel yesterday, and asked him if Congress was likely to pass all the important bills before the close of the session. He said:

"Yes; I do not see any reason why they will not become laws. Of course, business must necessarily be somewhat hurried at the last, but I do not anticipate that any important measures will be left over."

"Not even the Apportionment bill?"

"Well, yes, I was about to make that one exception. There is no good reason why it should be hurried through this session. The next Congress can pass it in time for the elections. I might except the Electoral Count bill as well. It does not seem to me that it matters much when or how that passes. It would make but little difference what the Constitution said, it could not prevent very great excitement if the election should again be so close that one vote either way would make the difference of a Democratic or Republican President. We had a Constitution in 1860, but the mere parchment, or what was written on it, did not prevent the war breaking out."

"Is there any probability of an extra session?"

"Not in my judgment. While there are a few who fear that the condition of the business under consideration by Congress is such that the needs and wants of the country cannot be looked after properly in the short time from now to the 4th of March, there are many who believe that the work will be done. You know that men can do a very great deal in a short time if they feel that they must. And this, I think, is the case in Washington. An extra session would not be popular with either the Members or Senators."

"To change the subject Senator, is your State in a prosperous condition?"

"Yes I may say Nevada is in a prosperous condition. There is an impression in the East that our State Government is so expensive that we think of abandoning it and becoming a territory again. That is not the case. Our people do not know that they have a Government. That is they have not felt it burdensome at all. Our system of taxation is such that the poor people do not feel the taxes. We are taxed according to our incomes. A mine is taxed for what it produces, so that it pays taxes as part of the expenses, and, comparatively speaking, the burden is not felt. In the East taxes can not be levied in that way because there are too many rich men. In Nevada there are only a few rich men, and they can not do much. Consequently, when a lode gives out, like the Comstock, the revenue of the Government goes off. Now what under such circumstances does the Legislature do? It goes to work and cuts down salaries and expenses right and left, to make the liabilities less than the receipts. We have no debt and our miners are doing well, there being no State or Territory in the Union where mining is carried on so scientifically and systemat