BROOKLYN NEWS.

IN THE SOCIAL WORLD.

INCIDENTS AND HAPPENINGS OF CHRISTMAS WEEK.

A DANCE AND A WEDDING ON MONDAY NIGHT—THE NEW YEAR'S BALL—ENGAGEMENTS ANNOUNCED AND DATES SET FOR WEDDINGS.

That the last week of the year should be given over to the pleasures of the holidays was in accordance with the usual order of things, and the tide of social incidents was naturally somewhat low. The crowd, swarm, almost mob, of Christmas shoppers which took possession of Fulton-st. was an object-lesson for those who have been moaning about the hard times, and the children of the city have seldom, if ever, fared better than at this present season of giving and receiving. The success of the Christmas Tree Society in its big undertaking was a matter of much rejoicing among the well-known women who devoted time and money to bringing happiness to the waifs of the city, and that preparations are already started for next year's affairs shows how deeply in earnest these women are. But the rush of Christmas cheer and charity did not wholly snuff out the light of the purely social side of life, and the week started off in good shape, Monday evening being marked by two gatherings of size and interest.

One was the dance given by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Lowell for their two daughters in the Pierrepont Assembly Rooms, which were beautifully decorated with holly, mistletoe and other evergreens. Miss Florence Lowell, the debutante, was gowned in white satin and chiffon, and her sister, Miss Lowell, wore a combination of black satin and pink chiffon. Among the guests were the Misses Dickerson, Miss Belle Powell, Mrs. John Shults, Miss Hunter, Miss Walbridge, the Misses Falkner, Miss Elise Ripley, the Misses Gibb, Miss Hill, the Misses Wingate, Miss Jane Headley, of Newark; Miss Grace Norris, Miss Edna Schuyler, of New-York; Miss Edna Sayre, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Kerr, Jay F. Carlisle, Wyllys Terry, William Carhart, J. A. Hesse, George Wingate, George Sheldon Chauncey, Frank Hedge, Courtney Kalbfleisch, Harry Ball, Howard Cowperthwait, Walter Cowperthwait and Howard Whitney.

The other was the wedding of Miss Marion Louette Matson, niece of Mrs. Samuel Bowne Duryea, to Edwin Carrington Ward, which took place in the First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Charles Cuthbert Hall officiating. Miss Ethel Moore was the maid of honor, and the bridesmaids were Miss Kate Isabelle Reed, the bride's half sister; Miss Charlotte Flanders, Miss Molly Holbrook, Miss Marion Smith, Miss Grace Holt and Miss Fannie Moss. Frank N. Parsons was the best man, and the ushers were Ralph Duryea, Harry Vernon, Theodore L. Frothingham, Edwin C. Thayer, J. Clarke Smith and W. G. Bates. Following the ceremony there was a large and brilliant reception at the home of the bride's aunt in Remsen-st. Mrs. Duryea was assisted in receiving by Mrs. Reed, the bride's mother, Mrs. J. G. Flanders and Mrs. E. E. Holbrook. There was a crowd of guests present, among them being Mr. and Mrs. George W. Chauncey, Mr. and Mrs. Timothy L. Woodruff, John T. Sherman, Miss Gertrude Sherman, Miss Helen Sherman, Mrs. Henry Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. Frederic A. Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Litchfield, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. P. Prentice, Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Dodge, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Packard, Miss Mildred Packard, Miss Slocovich, Mrs. Lindley Murray, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Hill, Dr. Samuel Talmage, Miss Tousey, Miss Elizabeth Tousey, Abbott L. Dow, the Misses Dow, Miss Madge Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Erhart, Miss Erhart, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Southard and Miss Southard.

After many rumors and repeated denials the formal announcement of the engagement of Miss Josephine Richardson and Clyde Notman has been made, and the vexed question has been settled. Miss Richardson, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Richardson, of Monroe Place, "came out" last year, and at once took a prominent place in the social set of the Heights. Mr. Notman, who is the youngest son of the late Peter Notman, was one of the few remaining members of the "old guard," and has had a good deal of experience at the weddings of his friends and as an active member of the dancing set. In addition to this his handling of the violin is above the average of the amateur, and he is also a sportsman.

The Heights of Prospect are not out in the cold in the matter of engagements, for that of Miss Katherine B. Bowne, of Berkeley Place, to Harrison B. Smith, of Charleston, S. C., has just been announced. Miss Bowne is known among her friends as a musician of no small degree of skill.

Weddings in the New Year's opening days are not numerous, the principal one being that of Miss Leila Grey Van Wyck, daughter of Judge and Mrs. Augustus Van Wyck, to James Walker Osborne, which will take place at the Van Wyck home, No. 172 Hancock-st., on Wednesday evening, January 8. There will be a large reception after the ceremony, continuing from 8:30 till 11 o'clock.

Miss Fannie Vernon and Austin G. Turner will be married at 5 o'clock on the afternoon of January 23, in the Washington Avenue Baptist Church. The reception will be confined to the immediate relatives of the contracting couple. Miss Hanly and Miss Turner are announced to be the bridesmaids and the maid of honor will be Miss Hodsdon. F. Joseph Vernon will be the best man, and the ushers will be Alfred L. Norris, Clinton Elliott, Jay F. Carlisle, L. C. Benedict, F. C. Brown and S. M. Hubbard.

On Tuesday evening, January 7, the second New Year ball will be given in the Pouch Gallery, and promises to equal in every respect the first of these functions. The list of subscribers now equals that of the Ihpetonga, having been increased by ten since the last ball, and the names of eight of the original subscribers are missing from the list. These last are Henry N. Whitney, J. V. Meserole, George L. Pease, Edward R. Betts, Henry Elliott, Charles W. Tracy, W. N. Dykman and Edward Annan. Eighteen new names have been added, these being Alfred L. Norris, Jay F. Carlisle, James H. Oliphant, Elizur G. Webster, William Berri, Homer A. Lattin, Coleman Benedict, Edmund A. Dickerson, Richmond Gibb, Charles M. Pratt, William H. Hill, Frederick C. Brown, John Cartledge, William T. Hayward, Charles Merrill, Cornelius N. Hoagland, Albert C. Woodruff and John A. Nichols, the forty-two original subscribers remaining being John Gibb, Horace J. Morse, Charles M. Engils, Thomas T. Barr, Cornelius W. Provost, James M. Fuller, Hayden W. Wheelock, James E. Dean, George E. Fahys, William B. Boorum, William H. Erhart, Clinton Elliott, Adolphe E. Smylie, Dr. J. Hion Bogart, Lowell M. Palmer, Robert J. Kimball, H. V. V. Braman, Spencer S. Baldwin, Edward Hinman, Thomas W. Lowell, Charles A. Schieren, S. Whitlesy Johnson, William W. Henshaw, William H. Wallace, William H. Nichols, S. Edward Vernon, William M. Hoagland, Howard O. Wood, William C. Wallace, Joseph Fahys, Frederick H. Webster, Frederick B. Pratt, N. Townsend Thayer, Henry F. Cook, William Beard, Oscar M. Crego, Charles M. Clarke, John D. Godwin, Sidney C. Guyon, A. Wallace Higgins, Charles S. Whitney and Albert B. Chandler.

The engagement has recently been announced of Miss Tillie Dixon, of St. Felix-st., and Harry T. MacConnell, well known as an amateur burlesquer and composer of burlesques. Miss Dixon is the daughter of the artist who signs M. R. Dixon to the numerous canvases which she turns out, and her daughter's face has been a favorite model for the mother's brush. The young lady is also a niece of Mrs. J. S. Hollinshead, of Henry-st.

A number of members of the Crescent Athletic Club, most of whom spent the summer at the country house of the club at Bay Ridge, have arranged a series of four cotillons, to be held in the women's dining-room of the country house, on the evenings of Tuesdays, December 31, January 28, February 25 and March 24. The committee in charge consists of W. M. Campbell, W. H. A. Fischer, H. Logan Patteson, H. Ainslie Smith and Clifford G. Scofield.

Mrs. J. C. Kerr has sent out cards for the afternoons of January 3 and 10. Miss Sproule, of Henry-st., will receive on the evening of January 15, and on the afternoons of January 28 and February 12.

Mrs. John Owen, of Utica, N. Y., is visiting her mother, Mrs. Hoover, of Clinton-ave.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Tower and their daughter, Miss Adelina Tower, are spending the winter in New-York. They expect to return to their home on the Heights early in the spring.

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Webster arrived in town last week from their home in Evanston, Chicago, and are spending the holidays with Mr. Webster's parents in their home in Clinton-ave.

The second concert of the season of the Brooklyn Amateur Musical Club was given on Monday afternoon in the Pierrepont Assembly Rooms. The programme was well selected, the soloists were good, and the work of the Glee Club beyond criticism. Mlle. Clarisse Yoell, the soprano soloist, and Miss Blanche Cheseborough sang admirably. The playing of Arthur Hoffmann, a fourteen-year-old pianist, was an interesting feature. The Glee Club sang the "Evening Serenade," "When at Dawn, in Dress of Green," "Visions," and Rubinstein's "Water Nymph," to an incidental solo by Miss Cheseborough. At the tea which followed the musical Miss Josephine Richardson presided at one table, and Mrs. Frederick Pratt and Miss Helen Pratt at the other. The tables were decorated in pink and the rooms were adorned with holly and evergreens.

AT THE BROOKLYN THEATRES.

"The Speculator" is the name of Thomas Q. Seabrooke's new play, in which he will appear at the Park Theatre to-morrow night. Mr. Seabrooke takes the part of John Fullerton, a speculator on the Chicago Board of Trade, and his assistants in the cast include Arthur Forrest, Harry Gwynette, Harry S. Armstrong, W. F. Peters, Walter Bruse, Thomas Pell, W. H. McCormack, Thomas Scott, Ethel Winthrop, Blanche Moulton, Jeannette Lowery, and Mary Young. For the week beginning on January 6, Peter F. Dailey, in "The Night Clerk," will be seen at the Park Theatre.

"Liberty Hall" is the play which Charles Frohman's Empire Theatre Stock Company will present next week at the Columbia Theatre. Miss Viola Allen has the leading part, and others in the cast are Miss Ida Conquest, Robert Edeson, W. H. Crompton, E. Y. Backus, George W. Bryant, John P. Whitman, Genevieve Reynolds, Arthur Boylan, Miss May Robson and Herbert Frannsbergh. Miss Olga Nethersole will make her first appearance in Brooklyn on Monday evening, January 6, coming from the Empire Theatre, New-York, to the Columbia, and appearing in a round of her impersonations.

At the Amphion Charles Frohman's company will play for the week beginning to-morrow night "The Masqueraders." Forest Robinson plays David Remon.

STREETS FOR THE PEOPLE.

MORE ABOUT COMMISSIONER WHITE'S PLAN FOR RESERVING THEM.

A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO DO THE WORK—A SUGGESTION AS TO THOROUGHFARES WHICH SHOULD BE KEPT FREE FROM RAILROADS.

The suggestion made by City Works Commissioner White, which was printed in The Tribune last Sunday, that the time has come when it is desirable that a commission should be appointed for the purpose of determining what Brooklyn streets should be used in the future for railroad purposes and what should be reserved for residences and for use as thoroughfares for driving and trucking, has not met with entire favor. One critic has pointed out that there have been too many advisory commissions during the administration of Mayor Schieren, and that the plan proposed by Mr. White does not afford a practicable method of dealing with the subject. It was expected, of course, that the railroad companies would see nothing to commend in such a proposition.

Whether the Commissioner had in mind a body similar to the advisory commission which considered the extension of Flatbush-ave., the reorganization of the school system and the establishment of new parks was not entirely clear from what he said on the subject a week ago. It was at least possible that he intended the creation by the Legislature of a commission like the Rapid Transit Commissions which established the routes of the elevated roads in New-York and Brooklyn.

When his views on this point were sought a day or two ago, he expressed his preference for a commission appointed by the Mayor, which should give hearings on the subject and reach conclusions after listening to all there was to be said pro and con. After the commission had fully examined the matter, then he would have its determinations enacted into law. He said that in his view this would be preferable to the creation of a commission by act of the Legislature whose findings should be final or, as in the case of the Rapid Transit Commissions, subject to review by the Supreme Court.

The other plan, too, would be more in accord with the spirit of the Brooklyn charter. The opposition which had been manifested to his proposal he believed was inspired by the railroads. His faith in its soundness had not been shaken in the least by anything that had been said against it, and he believed that it would commend itself to the sober judgment of thinking people.

As for the streets which should be set apart for certain purposes, Commissioner White said that he had not undertaken to study the subject in any comprehensive way, but there were certain things which he was sure ought to be done without delay in order to insure easy means of access to all parts of the city. Pointing to a map hanging on the wall of his office, he first turned to the Eastern District region, which for this purpose may be taken to include Greenpoint (the Seventeenth Ward). Leonard-st., Mr. White remarked, seemed to form a natural line of communication with that section, and was the only street free from railroad tracks that did so. Hence he would have this permanently exempted from railroads, and he would make a similar arrangement in the case of Throop-ave., which forms a fairly good connection between Leonard-st. and the region embraced in "the Hill." With the exemption of these streets from railroad tracks would go the intention of giving them asphalt pavements in the future.

As a route to the eastern part of the city, Mr. White favors the paving of Greene-ave. with brick between Fulton-st. and Clinton-ave., and the paving of Gates-ave. with asphalt between Clinton and Bedford aves.; then by means of Hancock-st., which is already paved with asphalt for upward of a mile, a line of smooth pavement could be formed that would by-and-by connect with Glenmore-ave., or any other street that is finally selected as a means of reaching Queens County. For a few blocks on this route there is a carline in existence.

From Gates-ave. to the southward the Commissioner favors a smooth pavement on Grand-ave. to Washington-ave., and a similar pavement on Washington-ave. from Grand all the way to Flatbush. Washington-ave. itself would be the more natural line of communication in this part of the city, but there are cartracks on it south of Atlantic-ave. for a few blocks, and also north of Myrtle-ave.

Another route that promises to be of great importance will be supplied when Prospect-ave. is fully laid out, connecting the projected smooth pavement on Sixth-ave. directly with the Ocean Parkway.

These are merely suggestions as to the work which such a commission as Mr. White proposes would undertake in a comprehensive way, covering the whole city. On this head he offers a recommendation in his annual report, but only in general terms, leaving it to the discretion of the new Mayor to take the matter up in any form he sees fit.

MASONS SPEAK FOR ARMENIA.

A CALL TO THE GOVERNMENT TO URGE PROMPT ACTION BY FOREIGN POWERS IN STOPPING THE SLAUGHTER.

At a meeting of the Brooklyn Masonic Veteran Association, held at the Aurora Grata Cathedral last evening, the following preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, Christendom is shocked and stands appalled at the fact that Christian Armenia—the cradle of Biblical history and the home of the first Christian churches—is being desolated; that tens of thousands of its innocent inhabitants have been outraged and put to death by fanatical and merciless Turks and Kurds, their property and homes ruthlessly despoiled and destroyed, and many thousands of men, women and children driven from their firesides to become homeless and hepless wanderers amid the frosts and storms of winter, to miserably perish of want and exposure unless speedily rescued and protected; and

Whereas, These inhuman atrocities have continued unchecked for many months, and the American Minister has recently testified that there seems to be no hope of united action by the Christian nations of Europe to stay this tide of rapine and murder; and

Whereas, In this emergency, an overruling Providence seems to have ordained that this Christian country of ours—occupying so commanding a position among the nations of the earth—remote from the scene of European contentions, with no foreign entanglements, and without special interest in the solution of the so-called "Eastern question"—shall put forth its mighty moral influence in stern protest against the continued inaction of the great European Powers, and to persistently urge that the slaughter of the innocents shall cease.

Imbued with these sentiments, and having an abiding faith in the glorious truth of "the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man," we here record our deep sympathy for the stricken and suffering people of Armenia, and express our strongest detestation of the financial greed, the international jealousies and the temporizing policies of the rich and powerful nations, which keep them passive spectators while an innocent people are being butchered and their fair country laid waste.

While we fully appreciate the gravity of the situation and are conscious of the restraints imposed upon our Government by treaty obligations, and rejoice to believe that measures have been taken to insure the safety of American citizens resident in Armenia, yet we feel constrained to earnestly and respectfully urge upon our Government the vital importance of immediate action being taken and all possible efforts put forth to bring to a close this dark chapter in the world's history, and redeem modern Christian civilization from the foul stain upon its banner.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing, attested by the officers of the association, be forwarded to each of the members of Congress from the city of Brooklyn.

AMASA H. NICHOLS, President.
SILAS B. DUTCHER, Vice-President.
FREDERICK L. JENKINS, Secretary.

Dated Aurora Grata Cathedral, Brooklyn, Dec. 28, 1895.

THE Y. M. C. A. RECEPTION.

ALL PREVIOUS EFFORTS TO BE SURPASSED ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

The regular annual reception of the Central Young Men's Christian Association, of Brooklyn, No. 502 Fulton-st., on New Year's Day to the young men of the city promises to be the most brilliant affair that has ever been given by the Central Association. There will be a carnival of athletic and gymnastic sports in the gymnasium, and, in the main hall of the building, a reception, at which Mayor-elect Wurster will be present. The gymnasium exhibition will begin at 10:15 o'clock in the morning, and continue until late in the afternoon. The star event of this part of the programme will be a handball game in the afternoon between the Centrals and the Brooklyn Handball Club, who are proteges of Phil Casey. Mayor Wurster will be present from 2 to 2:45 o'clock, and among those who will assist in receiving will be the president of the association, Frederick B. Schenck, members of the Board of Directors, 100 ladies, and the Reception Committee, F. A. Cottrell, chairman. The following pastors will also be present: Dr. Lyman Abbott, Dr. Charles Cuthbert Hall, Dr. J. O. Wilson, Dr. David Gregg, and Dr. John Humpstone. At 3 o'clock a musical and literary programme will be given in Association Hall by the Gounod Concert Company. A portion of the gymnasium exhibit which will attract great attention will be the show of bicycles and their parts, made by twenty leading manufacturers. This portion of the programme will be in charge of the Central Wheelmen, who will keep open house to all wheelmen on that day. W. S. Maltby will give an exhibition of trick riding in connection with this part of the entertainment.

Never in the history of the association have such great efforts been made to make the New Year's Day reception the red letter day of the year, and the entertainment provided should certainly surpass any former occasion.

PUBLIC HEALTH ENDANGERED

COMMISSIONER EMERY ISSUES A STARTLING REPORT.

THE WATER FRONT BURDENED WITH FILTH, GARBAGE AND DECOMPOSING MATTER—WORK OF THE INSPECTORS—"SHORT DUMPING" AT NIGHT.

Dr. Z. Taylor Emery, president of the Board of Health of Brooklyn, has just issued a report of the work of the sanitary corps on the beaches of Coney Island, Gravesend and Sheepshead bays and Coney Island Creek, covering the period since that section of Kings County came under the rule of the municipality of Brooklyn. The extent of water front covered by the inspectors is about fifty miles. The report shows that no less than 14,073 carcasses of decomposed animals, fish and fowls and large quantities of bedding were buried or burned by the Department men. This vast amount of putrid matter was washed ashore by the tide and left there. The bulk of the refuse, the report shows, came from the dumping scows and from the slaughter-houses of New-York and Jersey City and from emigrant and other ships coming up the Bay. The advantage of the system started by Commissioner Emery and the benefit to the public health of the locality are great, and are best shown by the comparison of the condition of the beaches when under the regime of John Y. McKane and under the Brooklyn Health Department.

The filth, according to the report from the district of Inspector Stanley, was in some places several feet thick, mostly garbage, decomposed bodies of animals and bedding. Dr. Emery's report only treats of the results accomplished. He says nothing about the hazardous work of the inspectors. No one has a better idea of the dangers these men are subject to while in the performance of their duty than persons who own yachts on the beach. The inspectors patrol the shore in the summer time from daylight until sunset, and those who have to use boats to cover their districts go out in the stormiest weather, such as no ordinary yachtsman would venture out in. The garbage is gathered in a heap and burned, and the bodies of animals are buried.

The report relating to the First District, which includes the territory from Norton's Point to the Government reservation at Fort Hamilton, some ten miles of water front, says: "On December 19, 1894, the shore was in a filthy condition; the refuse in front of Coney Island shore was two feet thick; carcasses of dogs, etc., were there in great numbers; they were mostly in a decomposed state, and needed prompt attention. The filth had accumulated near Norton's Point two or three feet thick. This was burned. The shore from Bay Ridge-ave. to Fort Hamilton and around the Government grounds had been so neglected that the residents around the shore made complaint to this Department. There were fifty-three carcasses of all kinds cared for, and fifteen on the shore from Government grounds to Fifteenth-st. The carcasses in front of the Federal property were in a putrid condition. The carcasses after being in the water some time become inflated with decomposition gases, float down the Bay and lodge along the shore. There are residents all the year round in this vicinity, and hundreds of visitors come down during the summer. The Bay is full of vessels of all kinds, and all their refuse is thrown overboard, and much of it comes on the shore. The same is true of the hotels on the beach, but it is very hard to detect the violators of the health laws. Short dumping takes place in the night, and a good deal of garbage comes from the box scows that come to anchor off the stakeboat in Gravesend Bay. The water is covered for spaces of several hundred square feet at times, and all that garbage comes on shore with the tide. These scows are overloaded.

"During the year 102 mattresses have come ashore. They were from vessels entering the port of New-York. This bedding should have been burned instead of having been thrown overboard and allowed to drift ashore, carrying infection to the residents of the beaches. The following list gives the amount of material detrimental to health that has been cared for by me during the year: Cattle, 7; sheep, 3; goats, 5; rabbits, 5; dogs, 537; cats, 321; rats, 800; turtles, 1; pigs, 6; offal, 1,440; fowl, 176; fish, 2,487; garbage, 829; beds, 102; total, 6,572."

The reports of the other district inspectors are of a similar character, except that one of them adds that four human bodies came ashore, and that the Coroner was informed regarding them.

TREASURER KEILEY'S REPORT

HE PLEADS FOR ECONOMY IN THE DISCHARGE OF CITY BUSINESS.

AN ARGUMENT THAT PERSONAL PROPERTY DOES NOT BEAR ITS PROPER SHARE OF TAXATION IN COMPARISON TO THE AMOUNT BORNE BY REALTY.

City Treasurer John M. Keiley yesterday gave to the newspaper advance copies of his forthcoming report to the Mayor. It is in part as follows:

When I assumed charge of this department through your favor on February 1, 1894, I found its affairs in an excellent condition, and received from my predecessor:

Cash in the several depositaries selected by the Sinking Fund Commissioners to the amount of		$4,578,119 11
To which has since been added from the proceeds of bonds and certificates	$10,698,249 54	
And from all other sources	36,277,146 06	
		46,975,395 60
Making in all to December 21, 1895		$51,553,514 71
Payments by warrants have been made during the same period, including December 21, 1895		$43,365,609 75
Leaving balance on hand in the designated depositories at the close of business to-day		$8,187,904 96

The available balance now on hand consists of the following funds:

On account of the tax levy of 1895 for municipal purposes of 1896	$8,021,609 75
Special accounts, Flatbush and New-Utrecht	151,913 40
Available for municipal purposes of 1895	14,339 81
Total	$8,187,904 96

From this statement Your Honor will observe that my estimate that a million tax certificates would be required to carry us to the close of your administration is fully demonstrated, for we have $800,000 in tax certificates falling due on December 27 inst., and fully $300,000 of other obligations, including the late election expenses and salaries long past due, for which we have on hand but $15,000, to be increased by the proceeds of the $700,000 tax certificates advertised at a time of such financial disturbance that it may be difficult to find purchasers.

Mr. Keiley devotes a good deal of space to the discussion of the taxation of personalty and realty, and says among other things:

The theory that personalty as well as realty should bear its just proportion of the expenses of government is practically nullified by the operation of the laws, which appear to invite the one to escape its just obligations, by providing no adequate means for its enforcement, but does provide that, failing in its collection, it must ultimately be imposed on the already unequally burdened realty.

As Your Honor is aware, taxation, within constitutional limits, which is more liberal than the charter provision, which restricts to 2 per cent on the realty alone, while the constitution permits the personalty to be included, now yields an insufficient amount for the increased obligations entailed by the annexation of the county towns, and therefore leaves no adequate means to provide for this $6,000,000 deficiency. We are now within less than three million of dollars ($2,189,968 60) of our borrowing capacity, which will be increased only $234,078 50 by the annexation of Flatlands on the 1st of January, prox., and can look for small relief from the proceeds of bonds.

It seems to me that the only remedy lies in the most rigid economy consistent with its proper administration, in the conduct of every department of our municipal government, so happily illustrated in the magnificent results achieved in his management of the City Works Department by Alfred T. White, and the application of a specific amount annually from the "revenue fund account" to extinguish the deficiency in a reasonable time. Justice to our overburdened taxpayers, no less than fair business methods, demands that all unexpended balances at the end of each year should be rigidly turned into the credit of the "revenue fund," and not carried over to the credit of the various departments which have been provided for without reference to those balances, in the estimates upon which the taxes have been levied for the conduct of the departments in the succeeding year. Carrying over the unexpended balances is an incentive to extravagance which is infrequently resisted. If this course were pursued, I have no doubt the "revenue fund" could credit a sufficient amount annually to extinguish the six-million deficiency in less time than it has taken to accumulate.

Part of Mr. Keiley's report is given to scoring the Republican Legislature for legislating him out of office instead of County Treasurer Taylor. He also takes occasion to speak in a complimentary way of the condition of the office books due to the skill and accuracy of David Phoenix, his deputy, and he says, also, that he is indebted to Paul E. Jenks and William J. Nesbitt for capable assistance.

THE LAST OF FLATLANDS.

IT WILL BECOME A PART OF BROOKLYN ON WEDNESDAY.

THE CITY AND THE COUNTY WILL THEN BE COTERMINOUS—HISTORY OF THE TOWN THAT IS TO BE THE THIRTY-SECOND WARD.

Flatlands is on its last legs. It is about to give up the ghost as a separate township, only to enter on a more illustrious career as a ward of the city of Brooklyn.

Ten years ago Kings County consisted of Brooklyn and five townships in addition. On Wednesday of this week the city and the county will become identical. The first of the five towns to be absorbed was New-Lots, which entered the city in 1886. Previous to 1894 there had been a strong sentiment in Flatbush in favor of annexation to Brooklyn, but the politicians holding office in the town were sufficiently powerful to defeat the movement. In the year named, however, not only was Flatbush taken in, but on account of the McKane wickedness, Gravesend was also added to the city. At the same time an act was passed providing for the annexation of New-Utrecht on the July following. This left Flatlands alone out in the cold, but as it was thought best to maintain the separate county government some time longer, provision was made for its coming into the city on January 1, 1896.

Flatlands will be the Thirty-second Ward. With this addition Brooklyn will cover sixty-five and three-quarter square miles, or considerably more than twice its area before Flatbush, Gravesend, New-Utrecht and Flatlands were added. The area of the first twenty-eight wards is about twenty-nine and a half square miles. The new wards add more than thirty-six square miles to the city, and thus comprise fifty-five per cent of its entire territory, but in point of population they are insignificant compared with the rest of the city. Flatlands has only about 5,000 people, and the population of all the new wards will not greatly exceed 35,000, while the city as a whole cannot have less than 1,100,000 people. Hence Brooklyn has plenty of room to grow within its enlarged boundaries.

ONCE IT WAS AMERSFOORT.

The history of Flatlands has been in the main that of a simple farming community. It has had no striking episodes, and the sober sense of the farmer folk has saved it from any such disgrace as that which overtook its neighbor Gravesend, when the career of McKane culminated. The name Flatlands, or Flatland, was originally applied to the flat country eastward from the ridge on which Prospect Park is situated, all the way from the Narrows to Hempstead. Its origin and meaning are plain upon its face. In 1647 Governor Stuyvesant, according to the ancient records, spoke of "the Flatland." The Dutch name for the region, however, was New-Amersfoort, or Amersfoordt, after a city of that name in Utrecht, and for a considerable period this name appears to have been used interchangeably with Flatlands.

It is probable that the first settlements here were made as early as 1624. In 1649 mention was made of Breukelen and Amersfoort as Dutch settlements, and there is little doubt that Amersfoort was the earliest settlement on Long Island. The first recorded purchase of land there took place in 1636, the land being purchased from the Indians, and the title being subsequently confirmed by a charter granted by the Governor of New-Amsterdam.

Early in the Revolution when the British landed at Gravesend the troops overran Flatlands and quartered themselves upon the people. A number of interesting incidents that occurred during this period are recorded in the archives of the town, as that of the young woman who refused to allow the soldiers to make away with her new bonnet, and the woman who took up her position in a gateway and dared the redcoats to drive away her cow.

Flatlands was recognized by the State of New-York as a town on March 7, 1788. During the first century of its existence it made a remarkable record in that it had only ten Supervisors representing it in the county legislature, one serving for nine years, another for fourteen years, another for twenty-three years, and the present Supervisor, John L. Ryder, as was recently told in The Tribune, for thirty-two years all told.

THE ANCIENT DUTCH CHURCH.

An interesting part of the history of Flatlands has been the history of the Dutch Church, which was one of the earliest established in America. The churches of Flatbush and Flatlands were organized on the same day, February 9, 1654, but Flatlands had no church building until nine years later. In the year named, however, it contributed $48 toward the building of the Flatbush church, which cost $1,800. After Flatlands erected its own building in 1663, the people were called to worship by a drum until 1696, when a bell was purchased for 556 guilders; and in the next year seven guilders were paid for "a rope for the bell." The church built in 1663 was repaired and enlarged, after having stood for almost a century, in 1762. It continued to be used till 1794. The edifice then erected was in use till 1848, when the present building was put up. No means of heating the church was used until 1825, when a stove was provided. In the olden time the town stocks and whipping-post were maintained on the green in front of the church.

Flatlands is still mainly a farming region, while the industry of fishing is carried on to a considerable extent. There are only two or three villages in it, the principal ones being Flatlands and Canarsie. Each of these has a postoffice, and there is a third postoffice, Longwood, near South Greenfield, which is in the town of Gravesend. Flatlands includes a number of islands, of which the best known are Bergen Island, now called Bergen Beach, and Barren Island, on the extreme southern end of the town, which is devoted to fat-rendering and fertilizers, and may demand the early attention of the Brooklyn Health Commissioner in the interest of the public nostrils. At the southern terminus of Flatbush-ave. is a settlement known by the name of Hemlock City.

With its annexation to the city it is likely that a good part of the town will soon be converted into building lots. Land is already so valuable that farming is no longer profitable. The conversion of the new ward into a true suburb will be accelerated by the extension to it of means of travel. The trolley road now reaching Flatlands village will be carried next year to Bergen Beach, and it is expected that the road in Sumner and Troy aves. will be extended to the same point. This year a trolley line has been opened to Canarsie and a fare of five cents established for the whole trip. Another attractive feature of the newest ward of Brooklyn will be the waterside park that is to be laid out in Canarsie as a popular playground.

STILL LOWER PRICES FOR ASPHALT.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY INVITING COMPETITION—SMOOTH PAVEMENTS NEAR THE HIGH SCHOOLS.

In his annual report on the streets of Brooklyn City Works Commissioner White speaks with satisfaction of the successful efforts made by his department to promote a free competition in bids for asphalt pavements. It appears that up to 1894 the specifications of the department required the use of Trinidad Lake Asphalt only. This gave a monopoly of paving with this material to one concern, which did the work for a uniform price of $2 a yard or a little more. As the result of investigation it was thought advisable to open the competition to other kinds of asphalt, and the result has been a remarkable lowering of the cost of such pavements.

In the report Mr. White notes that the "prices when the last bids were opened, in November, ranged from $1.17 per square yard upward, the lowest price being bid by the same contractors who had prior to this year received $2 or over for work in all respects similar." Had this report been prepared a few days later, the department could have made a still better showing, for the lowest figures in the bids opened last Monday were $1.11 a yard. This is a reduction of about 45 per cent, and is probably without precedent in work of this nature. As the price has been steadily going down, it seems not unlikely that these pavements may soon be laid for $1 a yard. Brooklyn has not only had the benefit, as Mr. White says, of "the very lowest prices ever made in any city," but the prices have already gone still lower than those he had in mind at the time he wrote his report.

There are two or three specially interesting things in connection with the last batch of bids received. One is that provision is made for the asphalting of Jefferson-ave. between Nostrand and Bedford aves., the work to be done by the city for the purpose of connecting the two thoroughfares. This is a most desirable improvement, as the parallel block in Hancock-st. is paved with granite, while to reach Halsey-st., one block further away, the rough cobblestones and cartracks in Nostrand-ave. have to be passed over.

Another matter of general interest is that a beginning is to be made in laying noiseless pavements in the vicinity of public school buildings. Bids were received for such pavements on Nostrand-ave. in front of the Girls' High School and on Marcy-ave. in front of the Boys' High School, and asphalt is also to be put down on the side streets adjacent to these schools.

It is noteworthy also that one of the proposals is for a smooth pavement, to be laid on the petition of property-owners, on a block occupied by tenement-house property. This is the block in Baltic-st., between Hicks and Henry sts. It happens that Commissioner White himself is interested in tenement property here, but he laid no pressure on the other owners, only saying that he was willing to pay his share of the cost, if they would do likewise. To his surprise and gratification, he found them entirely willing to respond to his proposition. This is the first time that owners of tenement-houses have petitioned for an improved pavement of this kind.

LAST MEETING OF THE SCHIEREN CABINET.

One of the features of the administration of Mayor Schieren has been the holding of cabinet meetings, at which the several heads of departments exchanged views, considered policies and decided upon measures designed to promote the welfare of the city. With some omissions and irregularities these meetings have been held weekly, usually on Thursday afternoon, a notice thereof being sent in advance to the head of each department. All the principal commissioners appointed by the Mayor have been invited to the cabinet meetings, with the exception of the Excise Commissioners and the Elections Commissioners, who are not, strictly speaking, heads of departments.

Mr. Schieren's term is on the point of expiring, and there is to be only one more cabinet meeting. That is to be held at the Hamilton Club on Tuesday afternoon, when the other members of the cabinet will be the guests of the Mayor. This meeting will differ in several respects from those that have taken place heretofore. It is understood that there will be something to eat and something to drink, and while there will be a good deal of talking, municipal business will be studiously omitted. No "shop talk" is to be allowed. It may be added that no representatives of the press will be present.

ONE BROOKLYN IDEA SPREADING.

GOOD RESULTS OF PUTTING THE BUILDING INSPECTORS IN UNIFORMS.

When Commissioner Wesley C. Bush gave orders that the inspectors of the Brooklyn Building Department should provide themselves with uniforms the innovation was not regarded with a marked degree of favor, either in the department or out of it. Mr. Bush, however, was sure of the wisdom of the change, and it did not take long to show that he was right. The uniform has proved to be a protection not only to the members of the inspecting force, but also to builders and contractors. The morale of the force has been improved, and in general the effect of the uniform has been the same as in the case of policemen and firemen.

Naturally this result has been most gratifying to the head of the department, with whom the idea originated, and he was greatly pleased when he learned a few days ago that Superintendent Constable, of the New-York Building Department, had decided to adopt it. Other cities, too, Boston among them, intend to follow the pattern set by Brooklyn. The advantages of the uniform are obvious. It prevents unscrupulous persons from palming themselves off as inspectors, as was often done in the old days when blackmailing was a common thing in the department, and it compels the inspectors to conduct themselves with circumspection.

That the subordinates of Mr. Bush are pleased with the change and with the administration of the department in general is evidenced by the action of the inspectors who sent one of their number to the Commissioner's house on the day before Christmas as the bearer of a token of their good-will in the form of a handsome gold-headed ebony cane. The gift was a complete and gratifying surprise to Mr. Bush.

GEORGE WEIDNER ATTEMPTS SUICIDE.

George Weidner attempted suicide at his home, No. 245 Irving-ave., yesterday morning by cutting the arteries of his wrists and inflicting a wound in his throat with a penknife. He was taken to St. Catherine's Hospital, where his condition is said to be critical. Weidner is thirty-two years old, and has been in ill health for some time. When he retired Friday night he told his wife that he would soon be dead. Mrs. Weidner tried to cheer him, and told him not to think of such a thing as dying. Shortly before 5 o'clock yesterday morning Mrs. Weidner was awakened by the moaning of her husband, and found his bed saturated with blood. Her screams awakened some of the neighbors, and a call was sent for an ambulance.

JOURNEAY AND BURNHAM, BROOKLYN.

TWO IMPORTANT SALES TO-MORROW.

Our Annual January Sale of

EMBROIDERIES

Will be held on Monday, a few days earlier than usual, and we will place on sale

5,000

YARDS of CAMBRIC, NAINSOOK and SWISS EDGINGS and INSERTINGS, regularly sold at 40c. to 60c. yd., at **25c.** per yd.

These goods are all manufactured to our order, and the patterns are exclusive.

Our Annual January Sale of

CLOAKS AND FURS

will commence to-morrow and continue during the week.

This sale will afford an excellent opportunity to obtain the very bes garments at EXACTLY ONE-HALF PRICE, as follows:

CLOTH JACKETS,

Reduced from $10.00, $17.50, $25.00, $30.00, $35.00 to **$5.00, $9.50, $12.50, $15.00, $17.50.**

CLOTH CAPES,

Reduced from $10.00, $20.00, $30.00, $40.00 to **$5.00, $10.00, $15.00** and **$20.00.**

PLUSH JACKETS,

Beautifully lined and Sable trimmed, at **$20.00, $25.00** and **$30.00,** that were $40.00, $50.00 and $60.00.

Velour and Lisreine Plush Capes,

Reduced from $20.00, $25.00