THE NEWS OF BROOKLYN

THE MOTORMAN SURRENDERS.

ALFRED LE ROUFFLE GIVES HIMSELF UP TO THE POLICE.

HE SAYS THAT HE WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACCIDENT ON THE BERGEN-ST. CAR, WHICH WAS DUE TO THE MACHINERY.

Alfred Le Rouffle, the motorman who was on the Bergen-st. car last Saturday night when it ran off the track at Bergen and Hoyt sts. and injured four people, surrendered to the police early yesterday morning, and was locked up in the Bergen-st. station. He was taken to court and held for examination, but, it is said, received assurance from the officers of the road that he would be bailed out. The conductor, who was collecting fares at the time of the accident, and who really had nothing to do with the mishap, was released. Le Rouffle is an intelligent-looking man, and the statement he made was given in a straightforward manner. He throws the blame entirely on the machinery, and said that he personally was not to blame for the accident. The street at the point where the car jumped the track is on a down grade, and even when the speed is ordinary the car needs a strong clutch to prevent slipping. This, according to the story told by the motorman, it did not possess. Le Rouffle explained that his car had what is known as a single motor.

"I was not going at a rapid speed," said he; "certainly not over six miles an hour. I did not have a heavy load on board, but the car began to slip. I could do nothing with the brake, as it would not hold. I was powerless. Of course, you see that the car went faster at every turn of the wheels, and when it struck the curve something had to go. I was frightened at what happened. I knew I would be arrested, and I ran home to tell my family of the accident, so my wife would not be worried at my absence. When I returned to the wreck it had been almost cleared away. Then I went to the police station and gave myself up. I do not consider that any motorman on the line could have prevented the accident, surely not when the machinery went back on him at a down grade."

ITS RECORD IN THE PAST.

Ever since the Nassau company acquired control of the Atlantic-ave. system its record has been one of almost daily disaster. Accidents have happened so frequently that up to the present time the total is in the hundreds. While the death record on the Nassau line is not equal to that of the Brooklyn Heights road, it must be remembered that the Nassau line is much younger, but it is crawling up on the Brooklyn Heights' record by leaps and bounds. It has been asked frequently and with more vehemence, as accidents continue to pile upon one another, why the Nassau Railroad Company is not made the subject of official inquiry. The accident of last Saturday night only emphasizes the necessity for an immediate investigation by the Grand Jury and the just punishment of those responsible.

Hackneyed as the term "Juggernaut" has become, it is expressly applicable to the engines of destruction which President Johnson and his responsible subordinate officers allow to run daily at an unlawful rate of speed wherever the Nassau tracks extend. On every side angry comments of citizens against the road are heard, and in every instance it is asked why District-Attorney Backus does not bestir himself and take proper steps.

When the Nassau Company first acquired control of the Atlantic-ave. road, President Johnson, in a public statement, explained his purpose to make the Nassau road the safest one in the city; but the numerous accidents, even from the first day of travel, show how this promise has been kept.

THE MOTORMEN ALWAYS BLAMED.

President Johnson never misses a chance to lay the blame for an accident upon the luckless motorman, whoever he happens to be, or whatever are the circumstances of the case. Never, by any chance, according to his statements, is any part of the machinery of his deathtraps at fault. When the accident occurred on Thirty-ninth-st. hill several weeks ago, in which several people lost their lives and twenty or more were injured, Mr. Johnson blamed the motorman, and an obliging Coroner's jury whitewashed matters by censuring the company and letting it go at that. But there was expert testimony enough to show that the car was insufficiently protected as to its machinery, and that chance only prevented other accidents even of a more horrible nature.

"We received a legacy of incompetent motormen from the Atlantic-ave. line," President Johnson has frequently said, "and we are discharging and taking on men every day, in order to improve the service. We are going to keep up this policy until we get the men we want."

A railroad man who understands the policy followed by the Nassau president condemned it yesterday in unqualified terms. He said he thought it was about time that the Nassau road got a few men to suit their requirements. "There is more injustice practised on the Nassau road than on any line in the city," he added. "Johnson and his officers are getting desperate at the number of accidents, and are acting without good judgment. Even if a man is ordinarily competent, or more than that, an unavoidable accident is a signal for his discharge. The company is continually making an 'example,' and the result is that many a good man is discharged when a little forbearance and patience would be the making of a good motorman. It takes practice for a level-headed man to become proficient at the brake, and what can the public expect when men are fired right and left regardless of their rights and of common decency."

Whatever may be said concerning the continual controversy and trouble going on between the company and its employes, it is apparent that the ways of the officers are in defiance of city ordinances. Cars are continually overcrowded, with the implied sanction of the officers, and the legal rate of speed is exceeded every hour in the day. President Johnson knows this, and his subordinates know it also. The proof is in the overcrowded condition of the Coney Island cars on Sundays and weekdays, and the speed with which they go through the city streets without let or hindrance.

ATTEMPT TO BURN THE HOUSE.

FLAMES PUT OUT NEAR THE HOME OF MRS. WILSON, CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF HER HUSBAND.

An attempt was made yesterday morning to destroy the house occupied by Mrs. Phoebe Wilson up to the time of her arrest for the murder of her husband. The house stands at No. 22 Pine-st., and is filled with the furniture and accumulations of thirty years. A search of the place has been made by the authorities for money which Mrs. Wilson says is concealed in it. Mrs. Wilson was arrested two weeks ago, when a body, afterward shown to be that of her husband, who had been missing two years, was found in an old cistern in the cellar. She is now in the Kings County Jail at Long Island City, awaiting action by the Grand Jury, on a charge of murder. Yesterday morning about 2:15, a citizen saw two men emerge from the alley in the rear of the house. He thought this suspicious, and watched them. They did not hurry, but walked slowly out of sight. A few minutes after they had disappeared a light back of the house attracted attention, and investigation showed a fire was burning alongside the rear wall of the frame house. The firemen were summoned, and put out the flames before they had caused much damage. The fire had been started in two boxes filled with paper and rubbish which stood close to the back stoop of the house. The police and firemen are certain the flames were started by some one, who, for an unknown reason, wanted to destroy the house.

CYCLIST HURT BY A RUNAWAY.

A horse attached to a surrey, owned and driven by Charles Gastmeyer, sixty years old, of No. 112 Jefferson-ave., became frightened in the Eastern Parkway, near Bedford-ave, at 7:15 o'clock last evening. A runaway followed, in which a light wagon, driven by James Wotzer, of No. 122 Reid-ave., was wrecked, and William Peak, of No. 615 Lexington-ave., New-York, was knocked off a bicycle and badly bruised.

IN BROOKLYN ARMORIES.

NEWS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS OF THE SECOND BRIGADE.

COLONEL WATSON ISSUES A CIRCULAR PRAISING THE 13TH REGIMENT FOR ITS GOOD WORK.

The circular sent to the members of the 13th Regiment since its return from camp by Colonel W. L. Watson is unprecedented in the history of the regiment. As the document is commendatory and urges the organization to keep up the high reputation made at camp, it is greatly appreciated by the "boys." The circular is as follows:

The commanding officer extends to the officers and enlisted men of the regiment his hearty congratulations on the result of the work of the season just closed. Perhaps not in its history, considering all the attendant circumstances, has its advancement toward the highest attainable standard of National Guard soldiership been so satisfactory. So marked is this that the public and press and our highest military authorities have been outspoken and loud in their words of praise and commendation.

But do not fall into the grievous error of imagining your task accomplished; on the contrary, it has but commenced. Bear in mind that the price of superiority is constant, intelligent effort. Strengthen your companies with recruits whose qualities embrace the best characteristics of American citizenship. Invite no one to membership you would not invite to your homes.

In the selecting of officers the gravest responsibilities rest upon you. Keep before you this army truism: "Good officers will make a fair regiment from poor material, but poor officers will ruin a regiment, though the material is of the best." I strongly urge the most thorough scrutiny and inquiry as to character and standing in the community and as to the possession of those qualities that stamp one's fitness to command. Good fellowship is the least to be considered; and if you have not in your own organization what you require, then seek it elsewhere.

Now, comrades, all! Give full thought to the needs of our beloved regiment during the vacation period—in particular, reflect as to how you can most effectually contribute to its prosperity and advance its interests. W. L. WATSON, Colonel.

Corporal T. Campbell Patterson of Company G, 13th Regiment, has asked permission to arrange for and conduct a burlesque drill, or what he prefers to call a "military bouffe." It is barely possible that the drill may be given on Thanksgiving Eve. It is the purpose to make it a sort of congress of nations and have a number of companies, each giving the distinctive drill of a foreign nation and wearing the characteristic military uniform of that nation. Some of the nations it is proposed to give the drills of are Japan, China, Germany, Spain, France, England, Scotland, Russia and Turkey.

Company D, 13th Regiment, will give a "stag" in the first week in October.

Company G, 13th Regiment, has offered a pair of silver-mounted Smith & Wesson revolvers to the member bringing in the largest number of recruits before January 1.

BUNCOED THE JUDGE.

HE TOOK ALLEGED JEWELRY IN LIEU OF A FINE, AND REGRETS IT NOW.

There is a Police Justice not far from Brooklyn, nor yet distant from the sound of the sad sea waves that break along the shores of Coney Island, of whom the following story is being told just at present. The Justice's ideas are somewhat peculiar, judged from a metropolitan point of view, for he not only believes in making the punishment fit the crime, a la Mikado, but he also believes in letting the value fit the fine, and the prisoner who is without funds may escape imprisonment if he is the possessor of jewelry or other personal articles, provided their value is such that they will pass the muster of the changers of money yclept pawnbrokers. It was through this peculiar judicial method, however, that the Justice came to grief last week. There was arraigned one day in the court over which this worthy Judge presides a prisoner, whose name for the purposes of this story, was, say, Jacqueminot Diamond. The charge against him was not a serious one. He was charged with acting in a suspicious manner, and when he was questioned by the Justice he acknowledged that he had entertained thoughts of putting an end to his earthly career, and of using the surf, not as a bathing-place, as many others were doing at the time of his arrest, but as a sort of rapid transit system to convey him into the next world. The Justice lectured the prisoner severely, and when Mr. Diamond said that a night in a cell had taken away all the desires of committing suicide that he had ever entertained, he said that he would be lenient with him. "Therefore," said he, "instead of sending you to prison until you are in a sensible state of mind, I shall let you off lightly. You are fined $10."

"But," pleaded the prisoner at the bar, "I have not got that much money."

"How much have you got?" the Justice asked.

"I have not a cent in my pockets," was the answer; and the Judge remarked, quietly:

"Well, ten days, then."

The prisoner was led away toward the cells, when suddenly he turned about, and taking a ring from his finger held it out toward the Justice. "Will you take this instead of the fine?"

"What is it worth?"

"I paid $25 for it not long ago."

"Well, I will hold it as a security for the fine. If you come back in a week and pay the fine you can have the ring back."

The ring was handed up to the Justice's desk, and Diamond was allowed to go. The Justice put the piece of jewelry in his pocket, and thought no more about it until that afternoon, when, with a party of friends, he was passing a jewelry store, and he decided to find out the value of the article. It happened that the friends were lawyers who had been in court when the case was up. So they all trooped into the place.

"Is this worth $25?" asked the Judge, showing the ring. The jeweler looked at it for a moment, then produced a trayful of similar rings. Then, while his friends roared and the Justice wished himself many miles away, the proprietor said:

"They're all alike, and you can have your choice at $2 50 each."

A GOOD LOAD TO CARRY IN HIS POCKETS.

Thomas Cassin, a man about twenty-eight years old, who refused to tell where he lives, was arrested at 1:20 o'clock yesterday morning by Sergeant Van Denberger, of the American District Telegraph Company, for breaking into the house of E. C. Keeler, at No. 81 Willoughby-ave. The officer was patrolling the street and discovered that the front window of the house was open. Van Denberger entered and found Cassin on the fourth floor. At the station the prisoner refused to tell anything about himself. He was searched and the following articles belonging to Mr. Keeler were found in his pockets: Eighteen silver spoons, one pair gold bracelets, two silver watches, one napkin ring, three gold rings, one silver thimble, three souvenir spoons, one pair coral earrings, four silk handkerchiefs and $6 20 in cash.

The family is at present away in the country, and Mr. Keeler went away, so it is said, without informing the police of the Fourth Precinct of his absence. Cassin will be arraigned in Myrtle Avenue Court this morning.

BRYAN MEETING A DISMAL FAILURE.

The Bryan and Sewall Club made one of its first attempts to hold a rally on Friday evening, selecting Brownsville as the most promising place for its labors. The meeting was a most dismal failure. The three speakers engaged for the evening failed to appear, and after a member had tried to keep the small crowd in the hall by reading a newspaper clipping, the meeting broke up. The attendance was about ninety, made up largely of boys.

THE UNFORTUNATE OWNER OF A MULE.

From The Atlanta Constitution.

According to Mr. Hugh McKeldin's way of thinking, the man with an elephant on his hands had a picnic compared to the plight of the unfortunate individual who has an unruly Tennessee mule to care and provide for.

Mr. McKeldin's friends say that if there is anything that he is particularly proud of it is his knowledge of mule flesh. He was reared in East Tennessee, a great mule country, and knows all about them.

The other day he was up in Knoxville, so the story goes, and as he was ambling down the street a stranger struck him. The stranger was a typical East Tennesseean, and at once appealed to the interest of Mr. McKeldin.

The stranger proceeded to say that he had an amazing bargain to offer in a mule which he wanted to get rid of for reasons of economy. Now Mr. McKeldin didn't want a mule, but he thought it well enough to take a look at the animal and see what the man had to offer.

Mr. McKeldin was pleased with the animal. It was a strapping big mule, finely limbed and full of life. "A nice mule," said Mr. McKeldin critically.

"Yas, stranger," said the East Tennesseean, "you never seed a better, and I offer him dirt cheap. You'd almost think I stoled him, I offer him so darn cheap. You may have him for $30."

Mr. McKeldin, as before stated, did not want a mule, but he said he'd give the man $15 for the animal, which he thought was worth, at a small valuation an easy $125. The East Tennesseean with apparent reluctance accepted and the mule changed owners. Mr. McKeldin made arrangements to ship his treasure home to Atlanta. He came back to Atlanta telling his friends what a wonderful bargain he had hit upon.

The mule came the middle of last week. Two or three expert mule handlers carried the bargain out to Mr. McKeldin's stables.

And then the fun began. The character of the mule began to develop. As a starter the long-limbed animal from East Tennessee kicked a handsome cart into wortnless fragments. Then as a little summer afternoon diversion it kicked down the side of a barn. To keep up the excitement it sailed into a few choice farm implements, dear to Mr. McKeldin's heart, and demolished them. The fiery steed kicked everything to pieces that it could lay its heels upon. It drove all the hands off the place and threatened to commit suicide by kicking the barn down on itself.

Mr. McKeldin is open to suggestions as to how he is to get rid of the mule. He says an elephant would be a relief compared to the Tennessee mule. It will allow nobody within reaching distance and has terrorized the community.

At last accounts the mule was thriving and the unoccupied area around it was growing larger and larger.

MR. TULLY'S NEW CRUSADE.

HE WRITES TO THE MAYOR AND TO MR. WELLES REGARDING GAMBLING.

JUSTICE NOSTRAND'S STATEMENT THAT THE POLICE DO NOT WANT TO SECURE EVIDENCE TAKEN AS THE TEXT OF HIS LETTERS, AND HE CALLS HIS CHARGES "SERIOUS."

The Law Enforcement Society, of Brooklyn, through its secretary, T. De Quincy Tully, has sent to Mayor Wurster and Police Commissioner Welles two letters, given below, to which the Mayor has promised to give especial attention as soon as he returns from his vacation. The officers of the Law Enforcement Society say that these letters are to serve as notices that a vigorous campaign will be conducted against gambling. The letters are as follows:

Brooklyn, N. Y., Aug. 21, 1896.

Frederick W. Wurster, Mayor of Brooklyn.

My Dear Sir: I wish most respectfully to call your attention to a communication addressed by me on Saturday last, the 15th inst., to Commissioner Welles, but which has not been replied to. I also send a clipping from a newspaper of a later date. You will notice that a serious charge is made against the Police Department of Brooklyn by a police justice.

This cannot be lightly overlooked. Gambling is only too common in Brooklyn. Hundreds of families are kept in poverty and children made to suffer as a result of this passion fostered in the low saloons and gambling dens in this city. Many complaints reach the Law Enforcement Society. I send you a sample in the following extracts from letters to our society:

"May 18.—William ——, carpenter, earns from $12 to $15 a week when working; in habit of playing poker, gambling in saloon corner of —— st., kept by ——. Four children, oldest ten, infant six months. Gambling habit developed during the last year; good man before this time. Beat wife for complaining that no money was given to buy food for the children. . . . Last Saturday there was a game. Husband came home at 2 o'clock Sunday morning. No money; not a thing in the house to eat; had to pawn things for food for children. Husband slapped wife for asking for money for food. Had to pawn children's clothing to buy food this week. (Signed) MRS. ——."

We found these statements true, but half was not told. By our aid the police broke up this den of infamy, the gambling hell mentioned. Another mother says: "I plead with you, in behalf of my little children, to help me in my distress. . . . My husband spends his time and money playing pool in —— saloon. I have pleaded with him, but he says there is a spell about the place he cannot resist. The saloonkeeper urges him to stay and play with him until his money is all gone. I talked with Mr. D. to help me to keep my husband out, so that he would not take all the money from the children, but he said that was what he paid license for, to make money. Last Sunday morning, at 2:15 o'clock, I went to the door to try to get my husband home. A policeman was at the corner. I asked him if the saloon was allowed to be open at that time. He asked me what I was doing on the street at that time of night. If you are a father or husband, I appeal to you to help," etc. The gambling in this place was also broken up. We have had many similar cases.

Many police captains have rendered valuable service in running down these places of infamy. Notably, Captain Miles O'Reilly has proved himself to be a most efficient officer, and worthy of special recognition. His work in the Second Precinct while in command there, again in the Eighth Precinct and now in the First, with which our society has kept in touch, cannot be too highly commended. I am free to say that Captain O'Reilly has done all that could reasonably be asked of a police officer situated as he has been, and yet the fact remains that, of the many gamblers run down and arrested by him, few, if any have been convicted and punished.

Our experience demonstrates that a radical change is necessary in the management of the Police Department in the matter of procuring proper evidence before a case is brought to the attention of the court, and also that much depends upon the manner in which the evidence is presented to a court or jury. It is a fact which the Law Enforcement Society has deplored, and which we have tried in vain so far to remedy, that the Law Department, either by the Corporation Counsel's office or the District-Attorney, has not been represented by a lawyer in the police courts. Why should a system which was so successful in nullifying law under the old "ring" régime be continued under a "reform" and Republican administration?

Under Mr. Ridgway the counsel of the Law Enforcement Society was appointed a special District-Attorney to represent his office in excise cases. As a consequence many convictions were had, much to the astonishment of the legal fraternity, the court and the people generally, for it had become the unwritten law in Brooklyn that it was useless to prosecute a saloonkeeper for breaking the law, as no jury could be found that would convict. But the Law Enforcement Society procured two convictions in one week by juries in Judge Tighe's court, and this struck these objectors dumb. The Judge said from the bench that these were the first convictions in excise cases that had been had in his court in six years.

Where there is a will there is a way. The laws give ample protection to our citizens, if they are only properly enforced. Mr. Backus for some reason has not seen fit to comply with our request as yet, and appoint the counsel of this society to represent his office in excise cases.

When the attention of another captain was called by our society to the fact that a certain club near his station-house was indulging in gambling, he retorted by demanding why we did not "go for" the rich fellows and not "pitch into" the poor men? "For," said he, "you know as well as I do it is going on all around, and the rich ones are never molested." This was said in the corridor of the Courthouse while a large number of people gathered around. I had to admit that the captain was right and knew what he was talking about, but pointed out to him then, as I do to Your Honor now, that the fault was not with the Law Enforcement Society.

This is a subject that has received a large share of the attention of our society. I am free to say that the fault does not lie primarily with the captains of the various precincts or the men under their commands, but is centred in the municipal building. If the men who control the police captains were competent or desirous every gambler of prominence would be cleared out of Brooklyn in less than thirty days. If the same zeal was directed against the gamblers as has been shown against habitual criminals and house-breakers, the moral atmosphere of Brooklyn would be cleared at once. If our vigorous District-Attorney could only have the opportunity to deal out to a few of these fellows a proper dose of the law, the gambling fraternity in Brooklyn would be made sick, and would immediately seek a more congenial clime.

Something should be done to relieve the police from the odium cast upon them by such charges as made by Justice Nostrand. The public are led to believe that the quick-witted policemen understand the situation almost intuitively, and that they are expected to make a water haul, to make a great showing in these raids, splash around, pull with great vigor and attract much attention, but at the same time to manage to have a hole in the net where the big fish may be so they can escape. The Law Enforcement Society, while it has clear ideas as to the difficulties in the way of better government, as we have pointed out from time to time, has also very clear and well-defined ideas as to the remedy which should be applied.

Personally, Your Honor, the Law Enforcement Society has only words of praise for the manner in which you have conducted your administration, and in the interest of common decency and good order in Brooklyn, feel especially grateful for the zeal you have shown, and the success with which you have prevented brutal exhibitions and prizefights.

Having thus called your attention to this all-important subject, we feel that the matter is in safe hands, and that a plan will be devised by you, in strict compliance with law, which will give results more satisfactory to the law-loving and law-abiding citizens of Brooklyn. Very truly yours,

T. DE QUINCY TULLY,
Secretary Law Enforcement Society.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Aug. 15, 1896.

Leonard B. Welles, Commissioner of Police.

Dear Sir: I was present in Justice Nostrand's court in Coney Island this morning when the case of Harris & O'Brien, for keeping a poolroom and gambling place, was called. The prisoners were quickly discharged. The Judge stated from the bench that the police had furnished no evidence on which he could hold them. He said a raid had been made, a lot of prisoners brought in, but it was quite evident the police did not want to make a case that would convict, because they had bought no pools or procured any evidence that gambling had actually been carried on in the place. He said he had no doubt a poolroom was conducted as charged, but the police had furnished no evidence on which he could hold the parties. The men were quite profuse in their thanks, but the Judge said that they need not thank him, but the police, for, said he, it would have been quite easy for the police to have procured the necessary evidence if they had wanted to, and it was quite evident to him that they did not want to.

Now, Mr. Commissioner, this is a very serious charge to make against your Department, especially in the manner in which it was made. I think it of sufficient importance for our society to look into and respectfully call your attention to it, for Justice Nostrand said that those who were interested should call the attention of the Commissioner to the case.

I am somewhat acquainted with the police at Coney Island, and know them to be efficient, worthy and brave, and willing to carry out any instructions of their superiors. Now, sir, some one is at fault here in your Department. Who is it? What were your fifty-seven detectives doing that two or three of them could not have furnished the proper evidence before the raid was made? The people pay the men of your Department well, and expect good work. What are they getting for their money? Are they getting efficient protection from gamblers and other law-breakers? This case does not look much like it. Very respectfully,

GEORGE QUINCY TULLY,
Secretary Law Enforcement Society.

Commissioner Welles could not be found at his home last night by a Tribune reporter who called to hear his side of the story.

SENATOR GALLAGHER FOR BRYAN.

The friends of State Senator Frank Gallagher have been wondering since the Chicago Convention adjourned whether he would join the bolters or, under the plea of party loyalty, declare for Bryan and Sewall. The young Senator and newspaper man has hitherto kept his own counsel on this point, but on Saturday he said that he would support the ticket. He made this declaration as emphatic as possible, and at the same time he made it clear that he was not thoroughly satisfied with the platform. While he would not say positively that he was either for or against the platform, he declared that he would support Bryan in any event.

TO NOMINATE MR. WOODRUFF.

THE SPEECH TO BE MADE BY W. A. PRENDERGAST.

A FRIEND OF THE CANDIDATE WHO IS POPULAR IN THE CITY—EFFECT OF THE DISCLOSURES REGARDING ALDRIDGE.

William A. Prendergast, of No. 350 First-st., has been decided upon as the delegate to the State Convention to present the name of Timothy L. Woodruff for the nomination for the Lieutenant-Governorship. Mr. Prendergast is an active young Republican, who has made a reputation as an orator in Brooklyn by his suc-

WILLIAM A. PRENDERGAST.

cess in speaking at a number of Republican meetings. He is a close friend of Mr. Woodruff and popular with the entire delegation. He has been actively interested in the Park Commissioner's boom since it was launched, and has prepared an able speech, it is said, which is calculated to win for Mr. Woodruff a number of votes. Mr. Prendergast is now in Saratoga.

The few State delegates left in the city yesterday had little to offer in the way of information about the convention. They read with interest the news from Saratoga and doubtless commented upon it, but "not for publication." The most active workers for Park Commissioner Woodruff are all in Saratoga, and information as to the progress of Mr. Woodruff's campaign was scarce in Brooklyn.

The arraignment of Superintendent George W. Aldridge of the Department of Public Works published by the Civil Service Reform Association was read with the keenest interest. Mr. Aldridge has few personal acquaintances in Brooklyn, but his record in the State office had been known to some extent. The charges made against him by the Civil Service Association were, however, read with surprise, and the prevailing opinion in Brooklyn was that the statement practically removed Mr. Aldridge from the list of possibilities in the contest for the first place on the ticket.

Among the delegates who will leave Brooklyn to-day is District Attorney Foster L. Backus. The last of the delegates will leave Brooklyn in time to reach Saratoga for the caucus of Kings County men to be held this evening.

TACKS IN CYCLERS' WAY.

AN ALLEGED "JOKER" SPRINKLED THEM IN GLENMORE-AVE., AND MANY TIRES WERE PUNCTURED.

Some unknown rascal caused a great amount of trouble for cyclists in Glenmore-ave., yesterday, by sprinkling a number of large tacks between Jerome-st. and Vermont-ave. A large number of wheelmen, who were early on the road, had their tires badly punctured, and it was not until the number of accidents was remarkably large that the riders put their heads together and studied out the cause of their woe.

Had the perpetrator of the alleged "joke" appeared on the scene and admitted his guilt, he would have received scant courtesy, to say the least. The dismounted wheelmen thronged the repair shops along the avenue, and the proprietor of one shop had ten customers at one time, all demanding his attention.

Captain Hugh F. Gorman, of the Liberty-ave. station, was informed of the trouble. He put several men on the case, but they were unable to discover the culprit, as he had done his work early and left no tracks behind him. A number of wheelmen secured brooms in the neighborhood and carefully swept the roadway soon after the tacks were discovered.

There were several accidents on the avenue in the course of the day aside from those caused by the tacks. Joseph Gibbons, thirteen years old, son of Officer Gibbons, of the Liberty-ave. station, was thrown from his wheel in a collision and made unconscious. He was taken to St. Mary's Hospital with a fractured skull.

NEW-YORK POLICE CHALLENGED.

THE LONG ISLAND CITY FORCE WANTS TO HAVE A NINE PLAY THE METROPOLITAN BOYS.

The police of Long Island City have issued a challenge to the police of New-York to play a game of baseball, the proceeds of which shall be devoted to charity. The Long Island City police have only seventy men, all told, to pick a nine from, while the New-York police have 4,000 men to choose from. For all that, however, Mayor Gleason, it is said, will bet $100 that his "byes" can defeat the ball-tossers of the metropolitan police force. He will make the wager with either Mayor Strong, President Roosevelt or with both of them. Should the game be played in Long Island City, Mayor Gleason offers adequate protection to Mayor Strong or to President Roosevelt if one of them will consent to umpire the game, and he hopes that they will do the same for him should New-York be selected as the battle-ground and he should be asked to risk his life in umpiring the contest. He says the Long Island City police force is small, but every man in it is a natural baseball player.

TO SET ASIDE THE ATTACHMENT.

AN APPEAL TO BE MADE TO THE COURTS IN THE INTEREST OF OVINGTON BROTHERS—REASONS FOR THE STEP.

An effort will be made to have the attachment served upon Ovington Brothers by George Bergfeldt & Co. set aside by the courts. The friends of the firm say that if the attachment be continued it may result in a disastrous settlement of the firm's affairs. Disposal of the firm's property under the usual process of an attachment may result in large sacrifice, it is feared, and in loss to all the other creditors. If the assets are thrown into the hands of the assignee, the liabilities of the firm can be paid in full with careful management, it is said.

The attachment was secured on the ground that the firm, in order to secure credit, issued an incomplete statement of its resources and liabilities. The firm replies that Bergfeldt & Co. well knew that this statement did not purport to be a complete statement of the firm's affairs. The statement was given to convey information of the merchandise liabilities then pending. Only debts then due, or that would fall due within the time for which the firm was asking an extension, were included in the statement. The statement was not given to influence future credits, but merely to secure an extension from Bergfeldt & Co. That indebtedness was fully paid. The debt on which the attachment is based was contracted on March 5, 1896, a year after the statement was made.

THE DEATH OF STEPHEN FOSS.

Stephen Foss, jr., the only son of Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Foss, died on Saturday morning at the home of his parents, No. 182 Patchen-ave. He was twenty-eight years old and unmarried. For several years he was a commercial traveller in the employ of a large firm dealing in gas fittings, but for over a year he had been kept from his work by illness. Death was from consumption.

A. D. PETERSEN TO TEACH IN ITHACA.

Adolph-Dahm Petersen, for two years barytone soloist of St. Charles Borromeo's Church, in Sidney Place, has accepted the place of vocal instructor in the Ithaca Conservatory of Music and Cornell University. He has been heard in solos in the Damrosch and Sousa concerts in Madison Square Garden, and has sung before the Queen of Sweden. He was a pupil of the celebrated Swedish composer, Swendser, under whom he studied harmony and composition. He ended his connection in the choir last Sunday by singing Buck's "Fear Ye Not, Oh Israel."

CONDITIONS IN CUBA.

CONFIDENCE IN THE OUTCOME OF THE REBELLION.

CONTENTS OF A LETTER RECEIVED BY FIDEL G. PIERRA—FEAR OF AN EXPLOSION IN SANTIAGO—MEN READY TO FIGHT FOR THE INSURGENT CAUSE.

Fidel G. Pierra, of No. 188 St. John's Place, who is chairman of the Press Committee of the Cuban headquarters, said last night that he had within the last few days received a letter from some friends in Santiago, Cuba, saying that the people of that city were in constant fear that some frightful catastrophe would overtake them, and that they would almost prefer death to the present state of affairs there. A threat has been made that the entire city will be blown up, and they are in perpetual fear of an awful fate.

"Well," said Mr. Pierra to a Tribune reporter, "such a thing is not altogether unlikely, but it will be a last extremity. We have got to get rid of the Spaniards some way, and extreme measures may be taken some time in the future.

"I understand that the Spaniards are preparing to send to Cuba about forty thousand troops. The Government is in such a state of fear of its men that it is going to ship them without arms or ammunition, and send along a war vessel to quell any outbreaks that may take place among the men. They are afraid of mutiny. They are shipping their rifles in a separate vessel. That is a very good condition of affairs for us, for it can be imagined how these soldiers—most of them young men, torn from their homes and pressed into service—will fight for Spain. They are all men without military training, with the exception of a few officers in each regiment, and have never shouldered a musket.

"If the Spaniards are active, we are equally so. Preparations are being made for the next campaign, and General Gomez is now organizing another army of invasion, and expects to be in Matanzas and Havana again in September. That is his programme, and he does not conceal it from the Spaniards. He lets them know where he is going, as he did previously, but he will not tell them what route he will take.

"The prospect is that in a few months there will not be a Spaniard in the interior of the island. They will be forced to vacate all the strongholds they occupy now, and will be driven to the seashores. They may hold out for a little while, for we haven't the artillery that we would like. As far as ammunition is concerned, the Cubans are pretty well provided. If they had 15,000 or 20,000 more rifles, there would be a man for every one. We would have 100,000 men if we had the rifles. There are at the present time in Cuba 20,000 men without rifles who would be willing to go to the front at any time.

"We have a great advantage of the Spaniards on the island because we do not have to buy provisions. We have got all the cattle, and the regular agricultural centres supply all the vegetables we need, while the Spaniards have to get their food from the outside. We have taken great care that the surroundings of the large cities that are occupied by the enemy have been all laid waste. They are using condensed milk, and cannot obtain any fresh milk at all. In Santiago they are paying 10 cents for an egg. The condition of the people in the large cities is growing so extremely bad that the Spaniards are allowing them to join the Cubans to save them from starvation.

"What the Spaniards are looking for now is interference on the part of the United States. They think that they are going to have a per forma war with this country, in which case they can withdraw from the fight with honor. But they will be greatly mistaken, for when the interference comes the enemy will have to withdraw in disgrace.

"The wealthy Spaniards in Cuba are entirely disheartened. The best proof of this fact that we have is that we have received visits from several committees who wish us to accept a form of self-government similar to the Canadian system. We told them that we were not for autonomy, and that what we wanted was independence. I do not believe that Spain would ever agree to such a form of government, but the gentlemen who called on us were confident that they could influence the Government to do so.

"It is an outrage that the Spanish Government should go into a home as it does and take from it the young men of the family, and make them fight against a cause for which they have the greatest sympathy. Even the women in Spain are beginning to revolt against having their sons and husbands taken from them. They now realize that not one of them ever returns."

MR. DEAN GOES TO THE MOUNTAINS.

COMPELLED TO GIVE UP HIS WORK ON THE GREATER NEW-YORK CHARTER—THE NEXT CHAPTER TO APPEAR.

Assistant Corporation Counsel Dean has been compelled to give up his work on the Greater New-York charter, and has gone to the mountains for rest and recuperation. The work will be continued by Commissioner De Witt, in his cottage at Long Beach, where he will remain for some time. The remaining chapters will be written by Mr. De Witt. It will be several days before any more chapters appear, because of the tardiness of the printer in getting out the work. The next chapter will be that establishing the Department of Charities and Corrections. This department will have only a single head, like all the others in the new metropolis. The chapter on the Department of Docks will follow. Mr. De Witt expects to have the preliminary draft ready on September 15, when the Commission will meet to consider it.

President Low and Silas B. Dutcher, who were appointed to prepare the educational chapter for the preliminary draft, have not yet reported. It is believed that they are holding their report until the Commission meets.

DEATH OF JOHN WILLIAM PORTER.

HE WAS FOR MANY YEARS THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE NOURMAHAL, J. J. ASTOR'S YACHT.

John William Porter, forty-five years old, who for twelve years was the chief engineer of J. J. Astor's steam yacht, the Nourmahal, died in the Flatbush Hospital on Friday morning. The funeral will be held this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at his home, No. 168 Fifty-sixth-st. Mr. Porter was engaged by the late William Astor in 1883 to act as chief engineer of the large steam yacht which he was having built, the Nourmahal. The erecting of the engines in the new yacht was personally supervised by Mr. Porter, and up to August 7 last, when he was taken ill, he acted as chief engineer of the Nourmahal. During the two years following the death of William Astor, when the yacht was tied up, Mr. Porter had the entire charge of her.

J. W. Porter was born in Liverpool in 1851. His father, who was a sea captain on the packets of the Blackball Line, moved to New-York when young Porter was four years old. In 1859 he went to live with relatives in Portland, where he attended the public schools. At the age of eighteen he entered upon an apprenticeship to the trade of an engineer in Boston. He worked in foundries in that city and Chicago for five years. As soon as he had procured his engineer's certificate he entered the employ of T. I. Windsor & Co., among the largest owners of tugboats in Boston. He was successively the captain of the Winch, the Storm King and the Underwriter. These last two boats were engaged in towing between Boston, New-York and Philadelphia. From the Storm King Mr. Porter went to the Underwriter, a larger vessel of the same class. He was still with this boat when the place of chief engineer on William Astor's new yacht, the Nourmahal, was offered to him.

Mr. Porter was a member of the Yachtmasters and Engineers' Association. A widow, a son and a daughter survive him.

CHARGES AGAINST A BROKER.

James S. Stanton, a broker, of No. 16 Broad-st., New-York was arrested on Friday morning in a civil action brought by Alfred D. Partridge, of this city. The order of arrest was issued by Justice Goodrich. The complainant alleges in his affidavit that on December 1 last he engaged Stanton to sell for him four first mortgage bonds of the Kanawha and Michigan Railroad, for $830 each, and invest the proceeds in Toledo and Ohio Central stock, preferred, at $73 per share. He alleges that the bonds were sold as directed, but that the stock was not bought, and that he has not received his money.

Mr. Stanton said in defence that the matter would have been arranged in a few days if Partridge had been content to wait. The bonds had been deposited with J. P. Morgan & Co., as collateral for a loan, and sold to satisfy the indebtedness.

Stanton was released on $2,500 bail given by a friend.

IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT.

A MAN RESCUED FROM DROWNING OFF GRAND-ST.

WHEN TAKEN FROM THE RIVER HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW HE FELL IN.

While Policeman Costello, of the Bedford-ave. station, was conversing with Joseph Griffin, a gateman employed by the Houston Street Ferry Company, at the end of Grand-st., at 1:30 o'clock yesterday morning, they were both startled by cries of "Help!" which came from the river. Running to the slip, Costello and Griffin saw a man struggling in the water. Securing a boathook, Griffin managed to fasten it in the drowning man's clothing, and with the assistance of Costello, the man was raised from the water to the bridge.

He was then unconscious, but soon regained consciousness and said he was Thomas Bain, thirty years old, of No. 212 Heyward-st. Bain was unable to say how he got into the river. He told his rescuers that he had been drinking. It is believed that while intoxicated he entered the ferry-house and walked off the bridge into the water. An ambulance from the Eastern District Hospital removed him to his home.

ASSAULTED FOR NO REASON, HE SAYS.

Frank Reilly, forty-four years old, living at No. 518 Manhattan-ave., entered the Greenpoint-ave. police station early yesterday morning bleeding from a scalp wound in the back of the head. He told the police that he had received his wound by being knocked down by two unknown assailants at Freeman and Franklin sts. At the time of the attack he said he was going to his home. Reilly could give no reason for the assault. Ambulance Surgeon Keegan, of St. Catharine's Hospital, dressed his wounds, and the police are looking for his assailants.

TWO CUT WITH A POTATO KNIFE