ROBERTS ON THE STAND.

THE STATE CONTROLLER TESTIFIES BEFORE THE CANAL COMMISSION.

EXPLAINS HOW HE SACRIFICED STOCK IN A CORPORATION INTERESTED IN A CONTRACT—MORE EARTH WHICH TURNED TO ROCK.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Albany, June 28.—The Canal Commission heard interesting testimony to-day from James A. Roberts, the State Controller, in regard to the canal contracts. He proffered himself as a witness in view of the statement that he was once a stockholder in the Degraff & Roberts Stone Quarry Company, which has furnished stone for a canal contractor. Mr. Roberts stated that he no sooner knew that the corporation in which he was a stockholder was interested indirectly in a canal contract than he sold out his stock. He had to sacrifice it. He had estimated its worth to be $25,000. He sold it for $15,000.

Mr. Roberts stated at the beginning of his testimony that he had been Controller for nearly five years. He had attended, he believed, a majority of the meetings of the Canal Board. He was present when the plans and estimates for the proposed enlargement of the canal under the $9,000,000 scheme were adopted.

"What was the extent of the examination or investigation of those plans made by the Canal Board at that meeting?" asked Mr. Blackmar, counsel of the Canal Commission.

"It was merely perfunctory," answered Mr. Roberts.

"How many members of the Canal Board had any special engineering knowledge; more than one?"

"I think only one."

"That is the State Engineer and Surveyor?"

"Yes, sir."

"What was the extent of the examination of the plans and estimates by the Board as a whole for the purpose of determining whether they should be approved or not?"

"It was, in the first instance, merely perfunctory. Let me say that at the time I looked into this matter, and I made up my mind that it was beyond my power to give intelligent judgment on these plans and specifications unless I went on the ground and went over it. Otherwise the only thing for me to do was to rely upon the officers who had in charge the making of these plans."

"From time to time there were contracts for extra work presented to the Canal Board?"

"Yes, sir."

"How did you obtain information as to whether those contracts should be approved or not?"

"On the reports and statements of the State Engineer and the Superintendent of Public Works."

"Was there at any time a meeting at which any of the plans for extra work agreements were presented that the ratification of them was refused by the Canal Board?"

"I do not remember any."

"And which of the State officials did you rely upon for your information?"

"I think largely upon the State Engineer and more or less upon the Superintendent of Public Works."

HOW THE STOCK WAS SOLD.

"There was evidence taken in the city of Rochester that the Degraff and Roberts quarries were interested in a sub-contract, I believe, in one of the contracts for the improvement of the canal under Chaper 79 of the laws of 1895, and it was stated there that you were interested in that corporation or firm. Will you tell the Commission what your interest was, if any, and whether it was a firm or corporation?"

"It was a corporation, organized, I think, in 1892. I had been a stockholder in that corporation, and I think president of the company from the time of its organization. Mr. Degraff, the superintendent, told me he had taken a contract from one of the contractors to do some of the work under Chapter 79, to furnish stone. I told him then that I thought it would compel me to sell my stock, and he tried to reason with me that it would not; but after consideringthe matter I made up my mind that, while it was not legally a violation of the law, it was a violation of what the law was intended to prevent, and I determined to sell my stock and so notified Mr. Degraff. From that time on I used due diligence in my efforts to sell the stock, but I do not think that I had disposed of it until some time in the earlier part of January, 1898.

"Then I sold the stock to Charles E. Clark, of Buffalo."

NO HAND IN THE CONTRACT.

"Did you have anything to do with the negotiations which led up to the making of the contract?"

"I had nothing to do with that; indeed, I had nothing to do with the making of the contracts for a number of years; not from the time we first started in the enterprise. That had all been done by Mr. Degraff, the younger, who was superintendent of the plant."

"What was the extent of your holdings?"

"I had $25,000 worth of stock."

"Was that its par value?"

"Yes, sir."

"What was the capitalization of the company?"

"Seventy thousand dollars."

"Did you learn that negotiations were pending for the making of such a contract as that before the contract was made?"

"I did not."

"And we are to infer you had no knowledge that the company was intending to be interested directly or indirectly in a contract or sub-contract?"

"No knowledge whatever."

"Was there anything said between yourself and Mr. Degraff as to whether this contract was profitable or not?"

"Yes; he told me it would be profitable."

"The sale to Mr. Clark; was that an absolute sale, so that it divested you of any interest, or any person in whom you were interested, of any interest, direct or indirect, in the stock?"

"It was."

"Would you object to telling the Commission what you received for the stock?"

"I received $15,000, although I inventoried the stock for five years past at par, and I had believed it worth that."

"Has the Controller's office any force or means for investigating the accounts of the different departments of Public Works?"

"No, sir."

"And when a certificate comes in, for instance, on canal work from the Engineering Department, accompanied by a draft from the Public Works Department, you have no means aside from the papers of ascertaining the correctness of the claim?"

"None at all."

EARTH THAT BECAME ROCK.

John C. Wait, resident engineer of the Eastern Division, the second witness, testified in reply to a question on the subject that Deputy State Engineer Roberts gave him authority to reclassify material once classified as "earth" as "rock" if, in his opinion, any injustice had been done. On Contract No. 2 of the Champlain Canal he had personally classified excavated material as "earth," and then later had reclassified the same material as "rock." Mr. Wait argued that he had not reclassified this material; he had merely discovered its true character and had classed the material as rock.

"But," said Smith M. Weed, "you yourself classified this excavated material once as earth?"

"Yes, sir," answered Mr. Wait.

"And it was paid for as earth?" continued Mr. Weed.

"Yes, sir."

"And then later you called this excavated material rock, and it was paid for as rock?"

"Yes, sir."

Mr. Weed quietly laughed. "It appears to me," he said, "that this was a clear case of reclassification."

Mr. Blackmar, counsel for the Canal Commission, also made an interesting comment on Mr. Wait's opinion on this classification business.

MR. BLACKMAR'S COMMENT.

"I do not care what Mr. Wait's opinions are," he said, "as long as we get at the facts, and the facts under his own statement showed that he classified this material once as earth, and it was paid for as earth. Then for six months this affair was left in the air, so to speak, and just before the final payments were made by the contractors the books were changed and this excavated material was paid for as rock. The people had supposed that they had paid for earth, but the books were changed months later, and they were compelled to pay for rock. I have noticed that a good many of these classifications of material as rock were made just before work was closed down on the contracts in May, 1898. Why did this happen at that time, Mr. Wait?"

"I presume," answered Mr. Wait, "that we had just then obtained a clear idea of what the material was."

Mr. Wait yesterday submitted a specimen of hardpan which he said he picked up himself on Contract No. 2. Mr. North, the Canal Commission's expert engineer, expressed doubts of its being hardpan, and thrust a penknife blade into it. Then to-day he put the specimen into a pan of water, where it at once dissolved into mud. It was clearly not "hardpan" or to be paid for as "rock."

A WARM, WET DAY.

The weather yesterday was exceedingly warm in the morning, but the showers in the early part of the afternoon cooled the atmosphere materially. The cool wind which blew from off the Bay was exceedingly pleasant, and it helped disperse the humidity. The temperature was the highest yesterday at 1 p. m., when the thermometer registered 80 degrees. There was considerable humidity, but about 5 p. m. the thermometer had fallen 10 degrees. The forecast for to-day is showers, with stationary temperature.

HOME NEWS.

PROMINENT ARRIVALS AT THE HOTELS.

ALBEMARLE—F. Gore King, of Garrison's, N. Y. BUCKINGHAM—B. F. Clyde, of Philadelphia. EMPIRE—John H. Farrell, of Albany. FIFTH AVENUE—Ex-Senator Frank Hiscock, of Syracuse; Colonel George W. Dunn, of Binghamton; the Rev. T. De Witt Talmage, of Washington, and J. B. Calvo, Costa Rican Minister at Washington. IMPERIAL—Colonel James C. Truman, of Binghamton. NETHERLAND—Henry W. Sprague, of Buffalo. PARK AVENUE—Samuel R. Rainey, of Hudson, N. Y. WALDORF—Captain A. Hamilton, of London.

WHAT IS GOING ON TO-DAY.

Departure of the Red Cross medical supply vessel Red Cross from Pier A, North River, 9 a. m.

Closing exercises, Grammar School No. 45, 10 a. m.

Board of Education, No. 146 Grand-st., 4 p. m.

Special meeting of the School Board for the Boroughs of Manhattan and The Bronx, 4:30 p. m.

Public School No. 69, meeting of special teachers of drawing, 4 p. m.

Irish National Club, No. 320 West Fifty-ninth-st., 8 p. m.

NEW-YORK CITY.

The cable between Pernambuco and Ceara is broken. Messages for Ceara and places north will go by land lines, but there will be some delay.

Sophie Lyons, the confidence woman, crossed the "dead line" yesterday, being found by Central Office Detective McCauley in front of Trinity Church. She is classed at Headquarters as a professional thief, and she was immediately arrested when seen in the Wall Street district. She gave her name as Mary Jones and refused her address. Magistrate Meade held her till to-day.

Thomas C. Ford, of No. 171 East Ninetieth-st.; C. H. Greenfield, of No. 113 West One-hundred-and-twentieth-st.; John F. Tracey, of No. 118 Avenue C, and Alexander S. Rosenthal, of No. 145 Clinton-st., have been appointed Deputy Tax Commissioners. They were sworn in yesterday by the Mayor.

President Woods of the Board of Aldermen announced yesterday a joint meeting of the Municipal Assembly, the Council and Board of Aldermen, to be held at noon on July 5 in the Aldermanic Chamber, to receive the tax rolls of the city from the Commissioners of Taxes. This will be the first meeting of the Municipal Assembly in joint session.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court handed down a long bulletin of decisions late yesterday afternoon. This completes the work of the court prior to the summer vacation. The decisions in cases still pending may be announced some time in August, but there will be no further arguments before the court at present.

All branches of the Young Men's Christian Association of the city of New-York will unite on July 4 on an excursion to Empire Grove, on the Hudson. The steamer Isabel has been chartered for the day. The athletic games will be one of the features and the chief attraction on the programme.

Jesus Ascevedo, a passenger on the steamship Pretoria, who was arrested by Chief Hazen of the Secret Service on suspicion of being a Spanish spy, was taken to Governor's Island yesterday. His companion, Robert James, who was also arrested, proved to be a British subject, and he was released.

RETAILERS WON'T RAISE PRICES.

SAY THE BREWERS MUST PAY THE WAR TAX, AND TALK OF BOYCOTT AND A CO-OPERATIVE BREWERY.

The members of the Wine, Liquor and Beer Dealers' Central Association, at a meeting in the assembly-rooms of the Lexington Opera House yesterday, decided that the price of beer should continue at 10 cents a pint, and that they would fight to the bitter end any attempt on the part of the brewers to make the dealers or the consumers pay the war tax. At the meeting it was said that the original intention of the Government was to tax the brewers, and that the tax should be allowed to rest where it had been placed, and it was decided that, in case any brewers attempted to force the small dealers mortgaged to them to pay the extra $1 a barrel, the members of the association would boycott the offending brewer. This action was brought about by a report made by a dealer, who said he had received notice that if he did not pay the tax no more beer would be delivered to him.

The committee appointed at the last meeting to confer with the Brewers' Exchange reported when the meeting opened that the brewers would not recede from their demand that the tax be paid by the retailers. It was said, however, that the association had received offers from a number of brewers throughout the country to supply them at the old price, in case the Brewers' Exchange did not agree to amend its demand.

Among the breweries said to have made this offer were the Bronx Brewery, the Stanton Brewery, of Troy, and the Greenville Brewery, of Jersey City. Two breweries with a capacity of 150,000 barrels each a year, and another, with a capacity of 80,000 barrels, it was said, had offered to sell their plants to the association for the purpose of enabling the organization to conduct a co-operative brewery, which would place it in an independent position.

It was reported that most of the dealers had paid their bills, minus the tax, and that the few who had paid the tax increase had done so under protest. The association has advised its members not to pay the tax increase on future bills. The question of weighing pints was discussed at some length, but no definite conclusion was reached. The general consensus of opinion was, however, that the plan was a good one and ought to be adopted.

Peter McGinn presided at the meeting, and these resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Wine, Liquor and Beer Dealers' General Association of the County of New-York, after hearing the report of the committee who waited upon the Brewers' Association with reference to the retailers paying the extra $1 a barrel for beer which was levied by the Government as a war tax, that we congratulate the protest in the most emphatic manner against the unjust stand taken by the brewers in trying to force the retailer to pay the full amount of the tax. Further be it

Resolved, That the association hereby directs all local associations and calls upon the public to take such action as will compel the brewers to assume their just portion of said tax.

In speaking of the dispute with the brewers yesterday, several of the dealers said that if forced to pay the tax they would simply have to go out of business, and they predicted many failures in the retail liquor trade. Several of the dealers showed their weekly bills, on which the item "war tax" amounted from $21.50 to $50. They asserted that they would refuse to pay the bills until the item was stricken off or modified. They said that so far the brewers had continued to supply them, but demanded cash on delivery for beer and charged up the item of tax. The idea of starting a co-operative brewery they spoke of with favor, and a number of the larger dealers said they would subscribe liberally for stock. Some doubt was expressed, however, as to the association's ability to float an enterprise requiring so large a capital.

MRS. JAMES GAYLOR FOUND.

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS IN THE GRAND CANYON WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER.

Flagstaff, Ariz., June 28.—Mrs. James Gaylor, the woman lost in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, on Friday last, was found on Saturday morning. She was lost for twenty-four hours and had neither food nor water. Mrs. Gaylor arrived here to-night none the worse for her experience.

FALL RIVER SHUTTING DOWN.

SIX MILLS, EMPLOYING FOUR THOUSAND MEN, WILL CLOSE FOR A WEEK, PERHAPS LONGER.

Fall River, Mass., June 28.—Fourth of July week will witness an independent shut-down movement on the part of many manufacturers in this city, the extent of which has not as yet been definitely determined, but which will last through the week beginning with the holiday. Six corporations are to give over four thousand hands an involuntary vacation. These mills are the three Durfees, the Stafford, Wampanoag, Slade, Laurel Lake and Fall River manufactory. They have a capacity of about three hundred and thirty thousand spindles and a weekly pay roll of over $27,000. While it is not certain at present whether the above corporations will keep their machinery idle for more than a week's time, it is probable that one week will be the extent of it. Some mill officials are favorable to a month's suspension of production. Others are waiting for their rivals to shut down, being unable to come to a satisfactory conclusion otherwise. But the situation is not producing any alarm among the more conservative mill men. Business competition and a steadiness of the cloth market will, it is believed, prevent any radical movement looking to an extended curtailment.

HERMITS OF ST. AUGUSTINE.

Villanova, Penn., June 28.—The Order of the Hermits of St. Augustine opened its quadrennial session at Villanova College here to-day. Delegates were present from each of the sixteen American communities of the order, the delegations being presided over by Monsignor Martinelli, who is the head of the Augustinians of the world. The session will last three days.

Plans for a new college building at Villanova and other important matters will be discussed. It is probable that Father Driscoll, the provincial, will be re-elected the head of the order in America.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

YONKERS.

There was a home wedding on Monday night at the home of Mrs. Janet Cruickshanks, No. 154 Waverly-st., when Arthur Cruickshanks and Miss Letitia Gillespie, of New-York City, were married. Miss Jessie Cruickshanks was the maid of honor and Irvine B. Johnson was the best man. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Charles E. Allison, of the Dayspring Presbyterian Church.

Aldermen Curran and Costello were the only members of the Common Council absent from the meeting on Monday night. Mayor Sutherland presided. The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds was authorized to procure a site at Lowerre for the erection of a firehouse; William Houghton was appointed an examiner of engineers in the place of Harry P. Skipper, resigned; City Attorney Hunt reported that Frederick B. Mee had been appointed by the Supreme Court a Commissioner of Estimate in the matter of opening Cornell-ave. Authority was given, after some discussion, for the issuing of $11,000 bonds to pay for the remodelling of John M. Mason Public School No. 6, in Ashburton-ave.

Mrs. William S. Teel gave an afternoon tea on Monday at her home, in Woodworth-ave., for Mrs. Samuel Todd Davis, of Washington, and Mrs. Anzi L. Barber, of Ardsley Towers. Miss Byers, of Chicago; Mrs. Elliman, Mrs. Ralph Hibbard and Mrs. Cyrus A. Peake, of this city, assisted.

A general invitation to the congregation and friends of the First Presbyterian Church to visit the Manse lecture-room and the grounds to-night has been extended by the pastor and the church officers.

There were twelve in the graduating class of the parochial school of the Church of the Immaculate Conception this year. Interesting exercises were held on Monday night.

The women of the Yonkers Auxiliary to the Red Cross will sew this morning in the assembly hall of the Hollywood Inn Club.

MOUNT VERNON.

So far as public demonstrations are concerned, the Fourth of July will be celebrated much more quietly this year than last. The principal affairs of interest will be a game of baseball in the morning at 9 o'clock, on the Y. M. C. A. grounds, in which the city officials and local newspaper men will be the contestants. In the afternoon there will probably be a game at the same place between the Mount Vernon and New-Rochelle teams. The usual exercises and decoration of the graves of Revolutionary soldiers in St. Paul's Churchyard, East Chester, is announced to take place at 10:30 o'clock, and in the evening there will be a display of fireworks from Vernon Heights, overlooking the city. The Vernon Heights Congregational Church will also conduct a fair during the afternoon and evening.

The tenth anniversary of the Niagara Hose Company will be celebrated to-day by the members and their friends with a dinner at the Invernere, East Chester. Stages will leave the firehouse at 2 o'clock.

The annual commencement of the Mount Vernon High School took place last evening in the Fifth-ave. building, and was attended by the Board of Education and a large number of parents and friends. The members of the class of 1898 are Josephine F. Andrews, Winifred N. Brown, Arthur H. Hardy, Cora L. Kellogg, Louise B. Luckhart, Marie B. McClintock, Florence W. Myers, Esther M. Patterson and Sadie E. Wilken, in the English course; Arthur F. Brinckerhoff, Newton Chapin and Herman J. Werbe, scientific; Florence J. Beard and Margaret Young, classical. A. C. McLachlan, principal of the Jamaica State Normal School, made the address of the evening. A. Noel Blakeman, president of the Board of Education, presented the diplomas. The closing exercises of the grammar schools will take place this evening in the same building.

WHITE PLAINS.

Judge Smith Lent directed yesterday the drawing of an extra panel of fifty jurymen to enable him to finish the business of the present term of the County Court.

The consent of two-thirds of the stockholders of the Ben Franklin Transportation Company, of Yonkers, to the execution of a mortgage for $50,000 was filed in the County Clerk's office yesterday morning. The mortgage is to secure certain bonds issued by the company, bearing date of December 1, 1894, and heretofore secured by two mortgages made by the company to Charles E. Wagner, as trustee, and not renewed in the manner required by law.

Charles Connors, a farmer of Unionville, who was struck by a train on the Harlem Railroad near that place on Monday afternoon, died from his injuries in the hospital in this village yesterday morning.

The Fourth of July will be celebrated at the Westchester Fair Grounds with several trotting and pacing races, a bicycle race, a balloon ascension and day fireworks.

In the County Court, before Judge Smith Lent, the jury in the case of Nelson F. Devoe, of Sing Sing, charged with bigamy, brought in a verdict yesterday of guilty. John Morgan, D. Edward Morgan and George Conway, who committed a number of robberies in the town of Somers and that section of the county last winter, were found guilty of burglary in the third degree, with a recommendation to mercy.

SING SING.

It is announced that, following the usual camp-meeting of the Methodist Episcopal Church in August, there will be a great camp-meeting held of the colored religious organizations of this section of the State.

The women of Red Cross Auxiliary No. 13, of this village, are making great preparations for the garden party which is to be held on the grounds of St. John's School next Saturday afternoon and evening.

The annual lawn party of the Teachers' Association of St. Augustine's Sunday-school will be held on the rectory grounds, in North Highland-ave., this afternoon.

PEEKSKILL.

More than a thousand people assembled in Depew Opera House on Monday evening, the occasion being the annual commencement of Oakside School. Dr. Alexander D. Dunbar, the principal, presided. The essays and their readers were as follows: "Living and Dying Nations," Malcolm F. Lent; "Cranks," Miss Ethel W. Gardner; "Dunderberg," Miss Lucy A. Anderson; "Cash and Credit," Joseph A. Lillis; "Dress," Miss Phebe E. Tuttle; "The Star Spangled Banner," Miss Iola Dutcher; "The Future of Cuba," Halford C. Hyde; "Three Magic Words," Miss Jessie A. Booth; "School Days," Miss Alma L. V. Evins; "Alaska," Edwin J. Lockwood. The valedictorian was Bertha F. Wood. Dr. Charles Mason, president of the Board of Education, presented diplomas to the following members of the class of 1898: Lucy A. Anderson, Jessie A. Booth, Iola Dutcher, Ethel W. Gardner, Halford C. Hyde, Alma L. V. Evins, Joseph A. Lillis, Edwin J. Lockwood, Phebe E. Tuttle, Bertha F. Wood, Malcolm F. Lent. The address to the graduates was delivered by Professor Appleton Park Lyon.

The commencement at the Franciscan Convent will take place this afternoon at 4 o'clock.

TARRYTOWN.

The announcement is made of the engagement of Miss Frances Dana Archbold, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Archbold, and Frederick Collin Walcott, of New-York Mills, N. Y.

C. G. Bacon, jr., of this village, has been appointed paymaster's clerk on the Topeka.

The art exhibition and sale held yesterday afternoon and evening in the newly renovated parlors of the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church was well attended. In the evening supper was served by the women of the Epworth League.

The postponed educational exhibition by the pupils of the Washington Irving High School will be held this afternoon and to-morrow afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hull are at the Castle for the summer.

Mrs. Charles Gross, the wife of the village President, is dangerously ill at her home in South Broadway.

A false rumor was circulated about Tarrytown yesterday morning to the effect that Corporal Frederick E. Weeks, the former Assistant District-Attorney of Westchester County, who is with Company C, 71st Regiment, had been killed at Santiago de Cuba, and caused much anxiety among his friends.

NORTH TARRYTOWN.

George Sinnott, the collector of taxes for the town of Mount Pleasant, made his returns to Supervisor Moses W. Taylor yesterday. He was about $20,000 short, which fact is due to the refusal of William and John D. Rockefeller to pay their taxes, pending decisions in their suits.

A musical festival will be held in St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Washington Irving Memorial) this evening. St. Mark's choir of men and boys will be assisted by the choir from St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Yonkers.

Edward T. Lovatt and his family, of Beekman-ave., have gone to Spring Valley, Rockland County, for the summer.

John S. McLean and his family have returned to their country seat, in Bedford Road.

Sherburne C. Van Tassell, of Yonkers, has rented the Rev. George H. Daniel's place, in Beekman-ave., for the season.

ARDSLEY.

Mrs. Harriett Springsteel, the wife of Daniel Springsteel, of this village, died on Monday evening. She was the daughter of Paul and Hannah Taxter, and was born in Greenburg Township seventy-eight years ago. Besides her husband she leaves several children and a number of grandchildren. Her funeral will be held at her late home to-morrow afternoon, the Rev. J. H. Phillips, pastor of the Ardsley Methodist Episcopal Church, officiating. The burial will be in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

UNDERGROUND MOTORS IN SIXTH-AVE.

HORSE POWER TO GIVE WAY TO ELECTRICITY BEFORE WINTER—OTHER PROPOSED CHANGES.

The obsolete horsecars that pretend to supply the transit needs of Sixth-ave. will be replaced by the underground electric system before next winter. This much is definitely promised by H. H. Vreeland, president of the Metropolitan Traction Company. The work of laying down the conduits upon Sixth-ave. was begun several months ago at Fifty-ninth-st. and was carried down to Fiftieth-st., when there came a halt in the construction of the new road. To a Tribune reporter Mr. Vreeland said yesterday that the continuation of this work had been delayed by litigation. The question was raised, he explained, and was carried into court, as to the right of the Metropolitan company to make use of the Sixth-ave. franchise, which it had obtained. The proceedings which ensued were long and costly, and in consequence all the material and implements which had been placed along the thoroughfare for the building of the new road were diverted to the construction of the Second-ave. line.

Now, however, a decision has been rendered in favor of the Metropolitan company, removing, as Mr. Vreeland said yesterday, all obstacles to the changing of the system on Sixth-ave. The company will proceed at once to push the electrical construction work on this avenue to a prompt conclusion, and it is probable that on this, another of the main arteries of the city, horse traction will be replaced by electricity in about three or four months' time.

Mr. Vreeland stated also that his company was obtaining consents as speedily as possible from the property-owners along Broadway for the change of the motive power along Broadway from cable to electricity, but is not likely that any move toward the change of power will be made for at least a year.

Finally, within a few weeks the work will be begun of rebuilding the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth-sts. crosstown lines, so as to permit of the operation of cars propelled by the compressed-air system.

OLYMPIA UNDER THE HAMMER.

BOUGHT IN BY THE NEW-YORK LIFE FOR LESS THAN THE COST OF ITS SITE.

A throng of four hundred or five hundred people, for the most part members of the theatrical profession, saw Oscar Hammerstein's Olympia sold under foreclosure yesterday in the Broadway Auction Rooms for less than Mr. Hammerstein says he paid for the ground on which it stands. Only three bids were made. The New-York Life Insurance Company, the plaintiff in the foreclosure proceedings, acquired possession of the theatre and land for $500,000, exclusive of some small prior mortgages, or $600,000 in all. Mr. Hammerstein has always said that he paid for the site of the building alone about $1,000,000.

There was no sensational scene at the sale. The proceedings were extremely brief. The auctioneer, Peter F. Meyer, first announced the terms of the sale, which included an offer by the New-York Life to lend $500,000 at 5 per cent to any one who would buy the property. He then called for bids. Henry de L. Randall, deputy auditor of the New-York Life, representing that company, offered $500,000. Henry B. Sire, the sole investor present, in behalf of his brother and himself, raised this $5,000, and Mr. Randall then offered $500,000. A short pause followed this bid, and then, as no other was forthcoming, the hammer fell. Taking Mr. Hammerstein's estimate of the cost of the site as correct, land and building together have cost nearly $1,750,000, so that Mr. Hammerstein's equity in the property is completely wiped out.

The New-York Life Insurance Company's representative said after the sale that no definite arrangements had yet been made for the future of Olympia. It is generally understood, however, that several operators, among whom is Mr. Sire, have already made tentative offers to buy the property at private sale, and still another man is anxious to take the theatre and roof garden on a long lease.

CLASS REUNIONS AT YALE.

HUNDREDS OF ELDER OLD GRADUATES GATHER AT NEW-HAVEN.

New-Haven, Conn., June 28.—This is the day devoted to class reunions at Yale, and the annual commencement baseball game between Yale and Harvard. Hundreds of old graduates from all over the country are here to attend the reunions beginning with the class of '48, which to-day held its half-century reunion with sixteen members present. The other classes that held reunions were '53, '58, '63, '68, '73, '78, '83, '88 and '92, academic and '92, Sheffield, which held their sexennials. The triennials of the classes of '95, of the two departments, were most numerously attended, considerable more than half of each class being there. The morning hours were devoted to the transaction of class business and reminiscences.

Shortly after noon the classes took special trolley-cars for Yale Field, where the baseball game was played between Yale and Harvard. Almost every class had a brass band, and the cars were placarded with the class numerals.

At noon to-day the Yale Medical School held its exercises in College Hall. An address was made by Professor Clarence J. Blake, of Harvard, on "The Citizen Doctor." A reception was tendered Dr. Blake and the alumni from out of town this evening.

At 1 o'clock to-day the polls for the election of a member of the Yale corporation, to succeed Judge Henry C. Howland, closed with the result that Judge Howland was elected to succeed himself, there being no candidate nominated against him.

To-morrow the commencement proper will be held in Battell Chapel.

PUSHCART PEDLERS DISCUSSED.

THEIR TROUBLES AND THOSE THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSIDERED BY THE SOCIAL REFORM CLUB.

The pushcart pedler, his trials and tribulations and the trouble he causes others, engaged the attention of the Social Reform Club last night, at its meeting, in the clubrooms, at No. 28 East Fourth-st. Julius H. Cohn, chairman of the Committee on Pushcarts, presented the legal aspect of the subject, and said in substance that the pushcart had no right to occupy the streets. The city had no right to license these men, as their carts constituted an unwarrantable obstruction of the streets and infringed the rights of the public and of the owners of property where they stood. Decisions of the courts were cited in defence of this view of the question.

Dr. A. L. Wolbarst was announced as the honorary chairman of the Pushcart Fish-Dealers' Association, but he declined the honor. He spoke on the wrongs of the pushcart men. He told of what is called "the pushcart market," which has its existence in Hester-st. and adjacent thoroughfares. In this district, he said, the streets were literally lined with these itinerant stores, where everything, from a shoestring to a bedstead, might be purchased. The average income of these men was about $5 a week. Out of this the man, and often his family, must live. Often, however, the wife, and—if old enough—one or more of the children worked for another of a pushcart as well, thus raising the family income to $10, $15, or more a week. Dr. Wolbarst told of how these men were arrested in batches of two or three dozen at a time, dragged through the streets like criminals, and fined in court, their wares meantime spoiling on their carts. He also spoke of the custom of warding off these arrests, and getting the privilege of a good stand, by certain illegal taxes paid to the policeman on whose beat they were. These practices were, he said, debasing and demoralizing to both the pedlars and the police.

Charles B. Stover, secretary of the Lower East Side Recreation Society, presented "A Solution for the Lower East Side." The plan presented, and which has already been discussed with Commissioner Clausen, of the Department of Parks, and others in authority for the city, is to provide a pedlers' market. The park space bounded by East Broadway, Hester, Essex and Suffolk sts., is, by the proposed plan, the place selected. A building one story in height is to be erected there and used in the morning until 11 o'clock for a market, by the pushcart men, then flushed out and used the rest of the day as a playground by the children of the district, while the roof will be covered by a trellis supporting rapidly growing vines, to afford shade. The place is to be open always to the public.

Mr. Seraphic, president of the Greco-American Protective Association, which has a membership of eight hundred, largely pedlers, said he had nothing to add to what he had heard, but to wish the club success in anything that might improve the condition of the pedler. Mr. Benowich, president of the Fish Pedlers' Protective Association, said he was in favor of licensing pedlers, and the establishment of a committee by the city for that purpose. The chairman was empowered to appoint a committee to look further into the subject.

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RAPID TRANSIT SHELVED.

MANHATTAN EXTENSION COMMITTEE PUTS OFF ACTION ON MR. ORR'S LATEST LETTER.

The rapid transit question, so far as it lies between the Commission and the Manhattan Elevated Railroad Company, is now shelved until some time in the fall. The Extension Committee of the Manhattan company met yesterday to consider the ultimatum prepared by the Board last Friday. Although Mr. Orr's communication was read and discussed for about an hour no decision was reached, and the Rapid Transit Commissioners need expect no adequate answer to their last letter from Mr. Gould until some time in September.

At present there is only one really pertinent point of variance between the two bodies. That is the matter of the rental. Mr. Gould and his colleagues are determined that they will not pay 5 per cent of gross receipts for the West-st. franchise, and on their part the Rapid Transit Commissioners are as firmly convinced that any less compensation would be unfair and inequitable to the city. While the Manhattan committee decided for the present to delay a final rejection of the West-st. franchise, because, as they hold, of the exorbitant terms demanded, there is little probability of the company renewing its negotiations while the present Commission is in office. Mr. Gould and his colleagues hope much from the next State election. Should it so happen that the Democratic party should be successful, efforts will be made immediately to remove the existing Commission, and to institute a Board which will be more in accord with Mr. Gould's feeling that the only source of better transit facilities in New-York should be found in the extension of the elevated railroads. Mr. Gould sails for Europe to-day, and it is improbable that any further meeting of the Extension Committee will be held until his return two months hence.

JOHN H. FLAGLER'S MARRIAGE.

WEDDING IN ENGLAND LAST SUMMER ANNOUNCED ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO.

The acquaintances of John H. Flagler, the well-known financier of this city, have been surprised to learn within the last day or two that Mr. Flagler was married last summer in England to Miss Alice Mandelick, also of New-York City. Miss Mandelick was formerly contralto in the Ascension Church of this city. She first met Mr. Flagler at Belle Haven, near Greenwich, Conn., in the summer of 1893, and a year later their engagement was announced. Subsequently Miss Mandelick made her debut on the concert stage, and two years ago she went to Paris to continue her musical studies. In the spring of 1897 Mr. Flagler also went abroad, and the two were married in England a few weeks later. Mr. Flagler returned to this city last winter, and his wife rejoined him here only a short time ago. Mr. Flagler, who is a cousin of Henry M. Flagler, of the Standard Oil Company, is about fifty years old, and his bride is said to be about twenty-two.

COURT CALENDARS FOR TO-DAY.

Appellate Division—Supreme Court—Recess.

Supreme Court—Appellate Term—Before Beekman, P. J., Gildersleeve and Giegerich, JJ.—Court opens at 10:30 a. m. Motions: Nos. 14, 20, 23. Appeals from District Courts: Nos. 4, 13, 29, 56, 57, 12.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part I—Before Daly, J.—Motion calendar called at 10:30 a. m.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part II—Before Freedman, J.—Court opens at 10:30 a. m. Ex parte matters.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part III—Before Nash, J.—Divorce: Nos. 6965, 7156, 7163, 7164, 7165, 7167, 7168, 7171, 7173, 7174, 7176, 7179, 7185, 7188, 6106, 7193, 7197, 7201, 7172, 7198, 7206, 7211, 7157, 6959, 7170, 7182, 6639, 7158, 6747, 7062, 7190, 7173, 7203, 7229. Clear.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part IV—Before Russell, J.—Law and fact: Nos. 4704, 6012, 6172, 5920, 6930, 6055, 2121, 6766. Case unfinished.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part V—Before Bischoff, Jr., J.—Causes to be sent from Part IV for trial. Clear.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part VI—Before Pryor, J.—Motions to be sent from special Term, Part I.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part VII—Adjourned for the term.

Supreme Court—Trial Term—Part II—Before Truax, J.—Preferred causes: Nos. 16962, 17008, 16960, 16149, 13543, 16326, 16964, 16894, 16875, 16904, 16918, 16933, 16969, 17020, 16671, 16722, 16917, 16932, 16701, 15463, 15464, 15203, 15204, 16528, 16939, 14857, 16371, 16929, 16936, 16937, 16905, 16956, 16929, 16968, 16748, 16847, 15726, 16884, 15070, 13949. Clear.

Supreme Court—Trial Term—Part III—Before McLean, J. Nos. 11171, 7524, 5142, 8065, 10851, 11348, 11365, 1662, 11481, 11483, 11523, 11545, 11620, 1144, 6527. Inquest: No. 4345. Clear.

Supreme Court—Trial Term—Part IV—Before Bookstaver, J.—Causes to be sent from Part III for trial. Clear.

Supreme Court—Trial Term—Part V—Before Dugro, J.—Causes to be sent from Part III for trial. Case unfinished.

Supreme Court—Trial Term—Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, X and XI—Adjourned for the term.

Supreme Court—Trial Term—Part XII—Before Chester, J.—Causes to be sent from preferred calendar for trial. Clear.

Surrogate's Court—Chambers—Before Arnold, S.—Court opens at 10:30 a. m. Wills for probate: Getta Scholle, William J. Crawford, Ernest L. Allen, at 10 a. m.; Mary Wallace, Margaret Houseman, Wilhelmina Schenkel, Stephen Y. McNair, Mary E. Houghton, at 10:30 a. m.; Martha E. Crawford, at 2 p. m.

Surrogate's Court—Trial Term—Before Fitzgerald, S.—Court opens at 10:30 a. m. No day calendar.

City Court—Special Term—Before McCarthy, J.—Court opens at 10 a. m. Motions at 10:30 a. m.

City Court—Trial Term—Part I—Before Conlan, J.—Case on, No. 1742, Cooper agt. Earle. No day calendar.

City Court—Trial Term—Part II—Before Schuchman, J.—Nos. 1064, 1167, 1240½, 1251, 1252, 1257, 1260½, 1263, 1266, 1204, 1217, 1158, 1273, 1292, 1302, 1305, 1151, 1153, 1178, 1272, 1125, 1131, 1149, 1173, 1282, 1286. Clear.

City Court—Trial Term—Part III—Before O'Dwyer, J.—Nos. 1378, 1387, 1382, 1406, 1424, 1432, 1358, 1331, 1148, 1400, 1372, 905, 1370, 1443, 1459, 1400, 1356, 1480, 922, 1371, 1391, 1392, 1399, 1418, 1379, 675, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1490. Clear.

City Court—Trial Term—Part IV—Before Olcott, J.—Short causes: Nos. 4782, 5281, 5256, 5349, 5346, 5259, 5350, 6062, 5381, 5