quarter of it. It was one hundred and fifty shares. It was worth about $20 a share.

Q.—It is worth more than that now? A.—It is worth now $40 a share.

Q.—Mr. Carroll had some stock, too, hadn't he? A.—I don't know about that. This was Philadelphia ice stock, not the Consolidated.

Q.—And you have not answered me about the Consolidated? A.—No.

Q.—You are not answering about the Consolidated stock? A.—No, the Philadelphia stock. I had one hundred and fifty shares, I think, of it, which was worth $20 a share.

Q.—Did you buy that stock? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did you pay for it? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What was the name of the company? A.—Philadelphia Ice Company Consolidated.

PAID CASH TO GELSHENEN.

Q.—Did you pay for it by check? A.—No; I paid for it in cash.

Q.—Who m did you pay? A.—Mr. Gelshenen.

Q.—The president of the Garfield National Bank? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have a great many financial dealings with him? A.—Not at all.

Q.—He has with Mr. Carroll? A.—I ain't answering for Mr. Carroll.

Q.—Don't you know he has? A.—No.

Q.—When was it that you bought that Philadelphia stock? A.—A year and a half ago, I think.

Q.—Does that transaction appear on the books of the company anywhere? A.—I don't know. It has been transferred probably. It has been transferred to my wife, and it is in her name. She gets the dividends.

Q.—Mr. Carroll tells me it was the Knickerbocker company of Philadelphia? A.—That is it.

Q.—How does Mr. Carroll happen to know that? A.—That I don't know.

John F. Carroll recalled.

Mr. Moss—How do you happen to know that, Mr. Carroll—how do you happen to know it was the Knickerbocker company? A.—I know something about the ice business.

Richard Croker recalled.

Mr. Moss—Now, Mr. Croker, you were not ashamed to tell us that you were the partner of Peter F. Meyer in the real estate business? A.—No.

Q.—And you did not then plead any privilege? Why do you object to telling us whether you are or were a stockholder in the Consolidated Ice Company? A.—I have not objected to.

Q.—Well, are you? A.—No, I am not.

Q.—Have you been? A.—No.

Q.—I am speaking now of the Consolidated Ice Company of New-York. A.—No; I am not connected with it at all.

Q.—You never had any connection with it at all? A.—No.

Q.—Has any member of your family? A.—Not one of the family that I know of, and I would know it if they did.

Q.—Well, that was a definite answer, at any rate. Have you never spoken to your sons Richard or Frank, or either of them, about stock in the Consolidated Ice Company? A.—Never.

Q.—Do you not know that Mr. Meyer, Peter F. Meyer, your partner, has been interested in that? A.—I don't know it and I don't believe it. If he was I think I would know it.

CROKER AS A COAL DRUMMER.

Q.—You have been interested in the coal business somewhat, haven't you? A.—No.

Q.—Sufficiently to write letters to people requesting them to purchase coal of some particular individual? A.—I don't know of any particular person that I asked.

Q.—Are they your friends? A.—Except as they might be business friends; no further than that.

Q.—What would be the good of your letter? You do realize your influence? What good is a letter unless there is some influence and some power behind it that you, in any capacity, could give to a friend who was in the coal business? A.—Yes.

Q.—And preferably you would give it to a Democratic friend? A.—Yes.

Q.—Isn't it a fact that you have written letters of recommendation in the interest of friends—Democratic friends—who have been in the coal business, or are in the coal business? A.—I may have done so; I don't recollect it. I write to people of all kinds about things, if they come and ask me.

Q.—You write lots of letters for all kinds of people, if they come and ask you? A.—Not all kinds of people.

Q.—Honorable people, business people, if they come and ask you? A.—Yes.

Q.—That is, especially Democratic friends? A.—If I can help them I do.

Q.—You think that is a legitimate thing for the leader of the party to do? A.—Yes.

Q.—And it tends to strengthen the organization? A.—Yes.

Q.—And a man engaged in business who has a letter from you recommending his wares goes out with that letter to endeavor to secure customers on it. That is what you give it to him for? A.—Not to proclaim it around.

Q.—But to use it where it is useful? A.—If I am asked to give a friend a letter by any friend I generally do it.

Q.—And it is in order to boom or boost him in his business? A.—Get him something to do.

Q.—And at the same time to sustain the political organization of which you are the working mind? A.—Yes.

Q.—And, of course, we don't characterize that as a harmful, immoral or corrupt practice, either of us? A.—I don't think so.

Q.—That is an incident to the situation of affairs in New-York, as we have it to-day? A.—A natural thing to do, for a man if he wants to help his friends.

Q.—And if he wants to sustain his party, as well? A.—Yes.

Q.—So that your party is built up not only upon the political principles which it holds, but also upon the way that its members sustain each other in business, isn't that so? A.—That is right.

SALES AGENT FOR STONE, TOO.

Q.—You have been interested in quarries, too, haven't you? A.—Never.

Q.—Don't you know of any quarries in Vermont or Down East there? A.—Never, not one.

Q.—Or in any stone business? A.—In no stone business.

Q.—Or with any people that are interested? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know of any people interested in quarries that want to put their stone into public buildings? A.—I have got hundreds of letters from people—something I saw in the paper some time ago, about my son going out to some place, and I got a lot of letters from people of quarries, and all sorts of things. My son and myself are not interested directly or indirectly at all in any quarries.

Q.—And, Mr. Croker, in giving these letters for the assistance of your friends—your Democratic friends—you sometimes write to the heads of departments, don't you? A.—Yes. I have not done it lately.

Q.—But you have done it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Writing to the heads of the departments of the city in the interest of the business or the supplies of these particular friends—you have done that, haven't you? A.—No, I have not done it lately.

Q.—But before you used to do it? A.—Not for supplies.

Q.—But for what? A.—Places, situations.

Q.—But have you not recommended materials or supplies to any department? A.—No, not one.

Q.—Are you sure there are no letters in existence signed by yourself or by members of your family, recommending particular supplies or materials, or methods of construction? A.—No, I don't think so; I don't remember any.

Q.—But you are not sure, are you? A.—The family might write letters. Some of the boys might write letters to some one without my knowledge of it. I couldn't stand for that.

Q.—That wouldn't be contrary to your position, would it? A.—Rather.

HIS AIR AND POWER STOCK.

Q.—You are a member of the Air and Power Company? A.—Yes.

Q.—Which has offices in the Syndicate Building? A.—It hasn't got in there yet.

Q.—You haven't got there yet? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What is the capital stock of that company? A.—Ten million.

Q.—Ten million? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much of that stock do you hold? A.—Well, it hasn't been settled up yet; it isn't out on the market at all.

Q.—Of course, it isn't on the market? A.—It is in the treasury yet.

Q.—It is in the treasury. How much have you subscribed for it? A.—None at all.

Q.—How much is to be your proportion? A.—I couldn't tell you.

Q.—You ought to have some? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—You are taking a very lively interest in the Air and Power Company? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—And you expect to have your hand in it? A.—I expect that to be a good thing.

Q.—And this Air and Power Company will supply air to any one who wants it, air and power, all over the city, including public buildings? A.—There is no chance to use it in public buildings that I know of.

Q.—Can't you devise some way of making it useful in public buildings? A.—I haven't got to that yet.

Q.—It is possible, isn't it? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Aren't you considering that? A.—I am not the inventor.

Q.—You are not the inventor, but you are one of the men taking an interest in it, and believe it to be a good thing? A.—I think it is a good power, as far as it is possible.

Q.—Who first proposed to you that you should go into that company? A.—Well, Mr. Hoadley himself—Mr. Knight, the engineer, and Mr. Hoadley.

Q.—Did he propose that you put money into it? A.—I decline to answer that question. I said before that I won't answer any questions concerning my private affairs.

Q.—You have told me about the Consolidated Ice Company? A.—I told you that because you were so anxious.

Q.—I am anxious about this. A.—You won't get anything about this.

Q.—Why not? A.—Because it is my own affair personally, and it don't concern the city of New-York, or the people, or any one else, and I decline to say.

WHERE DID HE GET IT?

Q.—I will tell you frankly how it does concern the people of the city of New-York. I want you to understand just what is in my mind in asking these questions. There was a time when it was on record that you were a poor man, and you won't deny there was a time when you were as poor as I am. A.—I was one day. I don't know how poor you are. You were in the Police Department.

Q.—Yes? And I am here conducting this investigation, and I am right before you, and you own the Police Department now, and I am not going to Europe this summer. A.—You are conducting this investigation by a minority vote of this city, and I am sitting here representing my friends with a big majority vote. You have been put out of the Police Department by the vote of the people. The people put you out of the Police Department, and the Police Department has thrived and benefited since you went out.

Q.—By Mr. Devery? A.—By Mr. Devery.

Q.—You believe in Mr. Devery? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—He is the best Chief that we have had in a good many years? A.—Yes, I believe he is.

Q.—A better Chief than Mr. McCullagh? A.—Yes, sir, I believe he is.

Q.—And he is a personal friend of yours? A.—A nice fellow.

Q.—And a personal friend of yours? A.—Not personal.

Q.—You have been in his house? A.—Never in his house.

Q.—You did not enter his house just before he was made Chief? A.—No, sir. I have got you right there now.

Q.—I am sure you know, Mr. Croker; I am sure you know; but did you talk with persons about his being made Chief of Police? A.—I helped to make him Chief.

Q.—Exactly? A.—I done all I could.

Q.—What was that? A.—Everything I could.

Q.—What did you do? A.—Everything I could.

Q.—What was that? A.—Spoke to the Commissioners and everything.

Q.—Spoke to the Commissioners? A.—And urged them to put him in.

Q.—Did you speak to the Mayor? A.—I don't remember; I don't think I did.

Q.—You know, Mr. Croker, that the Commissioners couldn't do it at first, because there were two Commissioners in the Board, Messrs. Philips and Hamilton, who would not vote to retire McCullagh; do you remember that? A.—I do.

Q.—What did you do to overcome that situation? A.—Well, I was in Europe at the time.

Q.—But you did everything you could to help him. What was that? A.—Yes, that was before I left, and I thought he would be a good man, and always thought he was a good man.

Q.—Did you discuss the matter with Mr. Carroll? A.—I think probably I did before I left.

Q.—You gave him instructions? A.—Yes, if there came a change there, I thought he would be the best man for the place.

DEVERY JUST SUITS HIM.

Q.—You knew, didn't you, that Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Philips would not vote to retire McCullagh? A.—No, I did not.

Q.—You didn't know whether they could be induced to vote to retire him? A.—I was away when the change was made, and I was glad of it.

Q.—It went to suit you? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—And you consider you have a large share in the putting of Mr. Devery in that position and the retirement of Mr. McCullagh? A.—I think I did.

Q.—And are you willing to put yourself on record as being perfectly satisfied with the way that Mr. Devery has managed the Department? A.—I am, yes, sir.

Q.—And do you hold yourself and your party responsible for his administration of that Department? A.—I don't.

Q.—Is your party satisfied with it? A.—We think it is as good as it can be under the circumstances.

Q.—You are satisfied with it? A.—Under the circumstances.

Q.—I was about to tell you, Mr. Croker, what lines of thought were in my mind upon which these financial questions were being shaped, and I have said there was a time, which you remember, and which the people remember, and about which I think there was testimony in the former investigation, in which you were, comparatively speaking, a poor man. Since that time it doesn't appear that you have held any official position, that you have been in receipt of any salary, that you have been in receipt of any known source of income, and it does appear that you have been in control of a political organization over which you have a large control, as you have to-day. It is now very apparent that you are a wealthy man, because you are able to indulge in those things in public which only wealthy people can indulge in? A.—What are those things?

Q.—Wait a moment. And the people are interested in knowing how you got that money, and I propose, in as gentlemanly a way as possible, but in as firm a way as I may have to, to ask these questions as to where you got it? A.—You have been reading "The World." Now, let me tell you something—

Mr. Moss—No, no!

Mr. Croker—You—

Mr. Moss—Stop the witness.

Assemblyman Hoffman—I ask that the witness be allowed to answer.

Mr. Moss—I haven't asked a question.

Assemblyman Hoffman—Yes, you have.

The Chairman—Let us proceed in an orderly way.

Q.—I am telling you what I am going to do—that is, the purpose of my question. A.—Go right along.

CHANCE TO CLEAR UP A MYSTERY.

Q.—And I am going to ask them to give you an opportunity of answering or refusing to answer, denying the general belief in these questions. Now, in line with that, I will ask you this question: Did you not a few years ago make a business connection with ex-Governor Flower? A.—No.

Q.—Have you not had business relations with ex-Governor Flower? A.—No.

Q.—Have you not had matters of common interest, financial matters, with that gentleman? A.—No.

Q.—Have you not had speculations which were directed in part by Mr. Flower? A.—Well, I might speculate in that office in stock, certain stock, sell it out on a margin, and go on again in that way, but I will say to you that if you want the books of our office for the last seven years, which you have been talking about, you can have them, and you can just see what I have made. I will oblige you with them.

Q.—I will be glad to see them. A.—I will show you the books, but I want to say to you now that my half in that business has amounted to $25,000 or $30,000 right along for the last six or seven years.

Q.—That is the real estate business? A.—Yes, sir. I have got more money now than I had when I was in a public office; then I had none.

Q.—That we understand. A.—Since I got out of that my speculations in Wall Street or any other place, I am not going to show you, but if you can tell me where I have taken a dollar from this city you can cut that arm right off—or encouraged it.

Q.—Or encouraged it? A.—Or encouraged it, either.

ONLY REVEALS A SMALL PART.

Q.—Then we have this, that you have prospered more since you left public office? A.—I think I have.

Q.—And that was quite some years ago? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you mean to say that all your business transactions and income is shown upon these books you refer to? A.—The income, yes, outside of any speculation I might have made with my friends. You know, Mr. Moss, you are a pretty smart man—

Q.—I don't know whether I am or not, when you are here. A.—And I want to say this: That I haven't anything to hide at all, and if a friend tells me about a nice stock I can buy and make a turn on it, I am going to do it, and I have done it, and there is nothing to hide at all.

Q.—Did you make considerable money in the transactions at the time that you were advising with Governor Flower? A.—I won't go any further into it now. I just give you the general knowledge.

Q.—You said you had nothing to conceal. A.—I haven't, but I am not going into my private affairs with you in detail, and I say that now.

Q.—If you have nothing to conceal— A.—Not that I am ashamed of.

Q.—If you have nothing to conceal, Mr. Croker, I ask you again what amount of stock was it proposed to you that you should take in the Air and Power Company? A.—I decline to tell you that.

Q.—Was it proposed that you should take some stock? A.—That I couldn't tell you. I can get whatever stock I like out of it.

Q.—You can get whatever stock you like out of it? A.—I suppose if I ask for a thousand or two shares I could get it, providing I should pay a certain price, but that is all.

Q.—Have you not already— A.—That has nothing to do with the city of New-York.

Q.—Have you not already received money from persons interested in the Air and Power Company, Mr. Croker? A.—I bought some stock in the International Air and Power Company, and sold it.

Q.—You bought some stock in the International Power Company and sold it? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—From whom did you buy that? A.—I bought that in Wall Street right off the street; I bought 300 shares the other day; I think I paid about 72 for it, and I sold it for 85 the other day, International Air and Power Company.

Q.—By the way, Mr. Croker— A.—Now, I have gone further with this than I intended to.

Q.—We want to be mutually obliging in this business? A.—Any other question that you ask me about my personal affairs—

Q.—But you have more at stake than I have in this matter. It is well for you to consider that. A.—Not a bit.

HOW HE TOUCHED JUDGE PRYOR.

Q.—A man that is so public a character and holds so tremendous a power in this city should be as fair—he should be as transparent as glass. You and I both recognize that, and if you were not in this position, I would not consider I had any right to pry into these matters. Now, digressing for a minute, do you remember what Judge Pryor said, that you asked him for a $10,000 contribution for his nomination? A.—Well, he didn't exactly say so.

Q.—Yes, he did say so. A.—I didn't ask him.

Q.—Who did? A.—Well, I will tell you about that. The Southern Society had Judge Pryor as a candidate as Judge some fourteen years ago now—no, it isn't fourteen—ten or twelve—he is seventy years old now, and retired; it was some ten or eleven years ago, and they urged Judge Pryor as a candidate, and we thought well of it and we nominated him. But he asked me what I thought would be the expense for the election. I told him there was 1,300 districts in the city of New-York, and we ought at least to have one man in each district to take charge of the business, and it would be $7,000 or $8,000 or $9,000, and I thought the Finance Committee at that time would accept about a nine-thousand-dollar contribution, and he said he was perfectly willing that it should be paid; that he wanted to know if that would be enough, because Governor Flower was also running at the time, and he would give a larger contribution if necessary.

Q.—Where did these conversations take place? A.—I think in Tammany Hall.

Q.—Did he go to Tammany Hall to arrange those matters? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did other judicial candidates go to Tammany Hall in the same way to arrange about paying their assessments? A.—Well, no, I don't think they did. I don't recall now the different places.

Q.—But Judge Pryor, who has discussed this matter with you, or your subordinates, is he—this matter of his paying the assessments? A.—Other judges—

Q.—Yes, other judges have done the same thing? A.—They have done it.

MOST JUDGES HAD TO PAY.

Q.—You don't mean to say you made a special thing about Judge Pryor in that matter? A.—No.

Q.—It was a common thing for judicial candidates to pay in money in that way? A.—They should pay for all their expenses.

Q.—And it was a common thing for them—— A.—The organization shouldn't have to pay expenses for them.

Q.—And it was a proper thing to go to Tammany Hall at a proper time and arrange the details? A.—I think so. I don't recall where they would go; they would go to different places; they might see the people who were their leaders.

Q.—It was for the purpose of getting into the hands of your organization the patronage? A.—Trying to help them out.

Q.—But Judge Pryor testified that his check was drawn to your order. Did you see the check drawn to your order? A.—I don't recollect that; probably it was.

Q.—And it was taken back to him with the suggestion that it had better be drawn to bearer. Why was that? A.—I didn't see any check.

Q.—Why didn't you have it drawn to the treasurer of the organization? A.—I don't know. It was getting right on close to election, and they had to get the money to give to the men who distributed it.

By the Chairman—This was on the 14th day of October as I recall it. A.—I don't know. There was a lot of talk them days about judges being assessed very heavily, but I had nothing to do with that; I left that to the treasurer.

Q.—And you left them to manage it? A.—Yes; the treasurer.

Q.—These assessments that were paid by judges and by other candidates, were they entered into any account book? A.—No.

Q.—No account kept of that? A.—No.

Q.—Were the assessments of any of the candidates entered into any account books? A.—No.

NO ACCOUNTS WERE KEPT.

Q.—Was any record then preserved of the receipt and expenditure of those assessments? A.—No.

Q.—Do you know to whom they were given, the assessments? A.—There were no regular assessments. They paid just what they liked.

Q.—Call them contributions? A.—There was a great many of them given to workers who went around collecting for the organization, and a great many sent right to the treasurer.

Q.—Didn't you personally indorse a great many checks that came in as contributions? A.—Yes; a great many.

Q.—Those were similar to the checks that Mr. Moran produced at the Lexow investigation? A.—Yes.

Q.—Mr. Moran was a contractor? A.—Yes.

Q.—He wanted to do contracting in the city or for the city, and sent his contribution to Tammany Hall for campaign expenses? A.—I never saw him in my life, or he never saw me.

Q.—You got the check? A.—A small check for $100 or $25.

Q.—And you indorsed those checks? A.—I indorsed them and turned them over.

Q.—Do you remember that the treasurer's name never appeared on those checks? A.—It never did.

Q.—That was a matter of public knowledge at the time, and was that called to your attention that the only indorsement on the back of those checks was "Richard Croker"? A.—No; McQuade's name was on it.

Q.—McQuade's name? A.—His name appeared.

Q.—But there was no record kept of the receipts of these contributions—— A.—The bank where McQuade made his deposit always shows; it shows on that check.

Q.—But there was no record kept of the contributions received and of the expenditure of those contributions. How could you keep track of them? How would you know that the moneys were being properly handled and applied to their proper purposes? A.—We applied them generally when the men went out with the tickets; when they distributed the tickets the leaders of the districts got so much to give to these men.

Q.—But as large a contribution as $10,000 going into the hands of the treasurer went into the bank, didn't it? A.—It did.

Q.—And was drawn on by checks? A.—Yes.

CROKER HANDLED MUCH OF IT.

Q.—To that extent there was a record of it? A.—It was drawn on the checks.

Q.—The $10,000 of Judge Pryor's went into the bank. There were checks drawn on that, naturally, weren't there? A.—I don't know; I suppose so.

Q.—What checks? A.—Checks of the treasurer.

Q.—Afterward? A.—Yes. After this money was deposited?

Q.—Yes? A.—Probably there was.

Q.—These checks may have been cashed and the money used instead, may they not, so far as you know? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Are you perfectly clear that there exists no record showing the contributions received and what was done with them? A.—I never seen it.

Q.—Did you not handle many of those contributions yourself? A.—Quite a number.

Q.—Are you sure that in every case you turned the entire sum over to Mr. McQuade? A.—All the time.

Q.—Are you sure that a bank account was kept into which Judge Pryor's check went? A.—I ain't sure of it.

Q.—Isn't it a fact that these contributions, when they were in checks, were cashed and the money used at once? A.—The money used right away?

Q.—Yes. A.—It went to the bank for a certain time.

Q.—Are you sure the money was left in bank and drawn out by checks? A.—That I don't know. I don't know how it was drawn out. It was drawn by check.

Q.—Isn't it a fact that many of these checks, when they came in by check, were cashed over the counter and the money taken back to Tammany Hall? A.—No; the way they generally did that was when people contributed to the organization along two or three weeks before the time before election time. All those contributions were taken over to the treasurer and he deposits it in the bank. There are very few checks drawn out of the bank after that. That money remains there until the time comes—two or three days before election—and then each district leader gets a certain amount for his district, for his men. You know that, Mr. Moss.

Q.—And in that way they bring the money with them? A.—In that way they bring the money with them, and it is distributed by the leader amongst his friends at the polls.

CROKER AGAIN BALKS.

Q.—Did you ever have any stock of the so-called Huckleberry Railroad, more properly known as the Union Railway? A.—I decline to answer any more of those questions.

Q.—You will answer no more of those questions? A.—No.

Q.—Why? A.—I told you why a little while ago.

Q.—Who gave you the stock of that road? A.—I tell you I won't answer.

Q.—How much did you pay for it? A.—I told you I would not go into that.

Q.—You won't tell that? A.—No.

Q.—Would the answers to those questions tend to degrade you? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Would they tend to convict you of a crime? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Is it because you have doubts on those subjects that you do not answer the question? A.—No, not the slightest.

Q.—You are not certain? A.—I am certain I won't answer those questions.

Mr. Moss—Mr. Chairman, the witness suggested to me some time ago that he had an engagement this afternoon.

Mr. Croker—It is too late now, Mr. Moss. My engagement was for 4 o'clock.

Mr. Moss—I think it is a good time to suspend the examination.

The Chairman—Yes, some of the members of the committee have engagements to keep.

Mr. Moss—We have put in a pretty solid day, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman—Yes. Will you want Mr. Croker in the morning?

Mr. Moss—Yes. We will subpœna Mr. Croker for to-morrow.

The Chairman—All witnesses who have been summoned to appear to-day at this place must attend without further notice to-morrow morning at Room No. 70 or No. 73, on the third floor of the Postoffice Building, at 10 o'clock.

Readers who wish to keep a file of the papers containing the testimony taken by the Mazet committee can be supplied with back numbers of The Tribune containing the same at the regular price for single copies.

ROCHESTER TROLLEY ROAD SOLD.

A NEW-YORK SYNDICATE SAID TO HAVE SECURED CONTROL OF IT.

Rochester, N. Y., April 14 (Special).—Although not admitted officially, it is pretty certain that the report made public this morning to the effect that the Rochester Street Railway Company has passed under the control of the Cuyler-Morgan syndicate is true. The deal, it is said, was consummated by the syndicate buying up the stock owned by Sellers McKee, of Pittsburg.

The new owners of the road contemplate the building of an electric line over the Ridge Road from Lockport to Rochester and the completion of the line from this city to Sodus Bay. The road's value is placed at $1,652,097.61.

INDUSTRIAL COMBINATIONS

GREAT ICE COMBINATION REPORTED.

TO CONTROL THE PLANTS IN MANY CITIES—LEADING SPIRITS IN THE MOVEMENT.

Reports are revived about the formation of a big ice trust to control the ice business of this part of the country. It was said yesterday that the Knickerbocker Company, of Chicago, and Charles L. Wagner, of Toledo, were the leading spirits in a movement to organize an ice trust that would control all the plants in Chicago, New-York, Detroit, Sandusky, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Toledo, Pittsburg, Erie, Buffalo, Baltimore and Boston. It was asserted that they would get control of 80 per cent of the ice plants in these cities, and would operate under the name of the American Ice Company, which has already been incorporated in New-Jersey. Officials of the Consolidated Ice Company in this city said yesterday that the air was full of rumors about combinations and consolidations of ice interests, but emphatically denied that the Consolidated company was involved in any deal of that kind.

AMERICAN STEEL HOOP COMPANY.

COMPANY FORMED IN NEWARK WITH A CAPITAL OF $33,000,000.

Newark, N. J., April 14.—The American Steel Hoop Company filed articles of incorporation with the County Clerk here to-day. The capital is $33,000,000. There are 330,000 shares, of which 140,000 are preferred. These are entitled to preference for a 7 per cent cumulative dividend. The incorporators are Hamilton H. Durand, John J. Treacey, Alexis P. Bartlett, Edwin O. Holter and Winthrop E. Dwight. Only $5,000 of the stock is said for the purposes of incorporation. The purposes of the company are set forth as being the manufacture and sale of steel hoops, bands and other articles made wholly or in part of steel.

HOOP-IRON AND COTTON-TIE COMPANIES

CONSOLIDATION OF ALL THE PLANTS INTERESTED.

Pittsburg, April 14.—Arrangements have just been completed for the consolidation of the hoop-iron and cotton-tie interests of the country. The capital stock of the new company will be $23,000,000, of which $14,000,000 is preferred and $19,000,000 common.

The plants included are J. Painter & Sons' Company, Isabella Furnace Company, William Clark's Sons' & Co., Lindsay & McCutcheon, of Pittsburg; Union Works, of the National Steel Company, of Youngstown, Ohio; Monessen Steel Company, of Monessen, Penn.; P. L. Kimberly Company, of Sharon, Penn.; Portage Iron Company, of Duncansville, Penn., and the Pomery Iron and Steel Company.

These are all the plants in the country. The manufacturers who have given their options on their plants received word to-day to present their stock on Monday next in New-York and receive cash for it. The general offices will be in Pittsburg.

ELGIN COMPANY DENIES A RUMOR.

President Hurlburt of the Elgin Watch Company says: "There is nothing in the report of a watch company, as far as the Elgin Company is concerned, and there is no probability of such a combination being formed at present."

RAILROAD INTERESTS.

FOR A NEW LINE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

PROSPECT OF CONTEST BEFORE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT BY RIVAL INTERESTS.

Montreal, April 14 (Special).—The Canadian Pacific Railway is preparing for a bill fight before Parliament to maintain its railway monopoly in the boundary mining district in Southern British Columbia. D. C. Corbin, who owns a railway running from Spokane to the international boundary, has applied to Parliament for a charter enabling him to extend it along the Kettle River Valley in British Columbia, thus lapping a rich mineral country.

Last year a similar application was made, but was defeated by a narrow majority through the opposition of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which is now building a road through that district. The application has been renewed this year, and behind Mr. Corbin is the powerful influence of the Grand Trunk Railway, and allied with it that of the Great Northern, of which system Mr. Corbin's road is a feeder. The boards of trade of Victoria, B. C.; Greenwood, B. C.; Rossland, B. C., and Winnipeg have passed strong resolutions demanding that Parliament permit the boundary country to obtain the railway competition which its people desire, and the Canadian Pacific will have difficulty in blocking the application.

The argument used in favor of a refusal of the charter is that if the road is built it will make all Southern British Columbia, with its immensely rich silver and lead mines, tributary to Spokane, Wash., and that Eastern Canada will lose an immense amount of trade. The matter comes up almost immediately before the Canadian Parliament.

TO INVESTIGATE GRAIN RATES.

PLAN OF THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION.

"Leonard's Railway News" will say to-day: "The Interstate Commerce Commission has decided to institute an investigation into the present export rate situation and the manipulation of low export tariffs that is now being resorted to by the eastbound lines to Newport News, Baltimore, Philadelphia and other Atlantic seaboard ports on export grain. This announcement is made on the authority of Martin I. Knapp, chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission, who was in this city yesterday. According to Judge Knapp, the Commission yesterday afternoon reached the decision that it was advisable that action should be taken without further delay regarding the excessively low rates put in by the Western lines on export tariff, while the domestic rates on the same commodity remain unchanged. The Commission will at once formulate complaints against all the roads interested in the export grain movement, calling upon them to answer, and this will be followed by an elaborate investigation, which will be conducted in the principal cities of the East and West, and will in all probability extend over the summer. The officials of the interested lines as well as the principal grain shippers of the country will be examined.

"The proposed investigation opens up the relationship between export and domestic grain rates, and as it is known that the Commission are opposed to the principle of a cheaper rate on export grain as against a higher domestic rate, the affair assumes considerable importance.

"The first of the proposed sessions will be held in this city about May 1."

THE SEABOARD RAILWAY COMPANY.

NAME OF THE NEW SOUTHERN RAILWAY SYSTEM—CONSOLIDATION NEARLY COMPLETED.

Baltimore, April 14 (Special).—The Seaboard Railway Company will be the name of the new Southern railway system now being organized. The consolidation of the old Seaboard Air Line and the Georgia and Alabama Railroad is about completed. The syndicate for financing the purchase of the Florida Central and Peninsular Railroad Company was made up to-day, and the first call in payment of subscriptions has been made. Payments are being made at the office of the Continental Trust Company. Applications for an interest in the syndicate largely exceeded the amount required to pay for the property.

The syndicate was formed by De Witt Smith, of New-York; Middendorf, Oliver & Co., of Baltimore, and John L. Williams & Sons, of Richmond. The first payment on account of the purchase of the Florida Central and Peninsular will be made within ten days, and the rest of the purchase money will be paid over as soon as the stock of the company is ready for delivery.

The terms of the deal are still withheld, though it is understood that at least $12,000,000 is involved. As soon as the syndicate is confirmed in the possession of the Florida Central and Peninsular there will be a consolidation of this property with the Seaboard Air Line, the Georgia and Alabama and the South Bound, the latter being controlled through lease by the Florida Central and Peninsular.

HALF-FARE TO G. A. R. ENCAMPMENT.

Chicago, April 14.—For the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, to be held at Philadelphia September 4 to 9, the Eastern roads have agreed to make a rate of one fare for the round trip from Chicago and all points in central passenger territory. The same rate will be made over all lines, standard and differential alike. It also applies to New-York.

Tickets will be placed on sale September 1 to 4 inclusive, good for return up to September 12. By depositing the ticket with the joint agent of the lines at Philadelphia and payment of a fee of 50 cents, the return limit can be extended up to September 30. Liberal concessions in the way of stopovers have been made. The travel to the National Encampment promises to be heavy this year.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC DIRECTORS.

San Francisco, April 14.—At the annual meeting of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company of California the following directors were elected: C. P. Huntington, Thomas H. Hubbard, George Crocker, H. E. Huntington, C. G. Lathrop, Russell J. Wilson, F. S. Deuty, C. E. Green and N. T. Smith. Subsequently the directors elected officers as follows: President, C. P. Huntington; vice-president, General Thomas H. Hubbard; treasurer, N. T. Smith, and secretary, J. L. Willicut. George Crocker succeeds H. E. Huntington, and his former place is taken by General Hubbard.

STEPHEN LITTLE RETAINED.

Stephen Little has been retained by the Reorganization Committee of the Kansas City, Pittsburg and Gulf Railroad to investigate the condition of the property.

DELAWARE CORPORATION LAW.

FACILITIES AFFORDED FOR DOING BUSINESS UNDER IT—COMPARISON WITH NEW-JERSEY ADVANTAGES.

Wilmington, Del., April 14 (Special).—The eyes of capitalists in all parts of the country are now turned on Delaware by reason of the liberal corporation law passed at the last session of the Legislature. It is now easy to get a charter for any kind of a company to do any kind of business in this State. So far there have been many applications for charters, although the provisions of the law are not yet fairly understood.

A comparison between the liberal law of New-Jersey and the recent Delaware act shows that it is much easier to get a charter under the Delaware law, and less expensive, than in New-Jersey. It is generally thought that the passage of the act will result in many concerns coming to this State for charters instead of going to other States. The tax in this State is one-twentieth of 1 per cent on the capital stock, while the New-Jersey tax is twice this. The Delaware law is also said to be much more compact and more readily understood than the New-Jersey law.

It is easy to obtain a charter under the new law. The proposed incorporators prepare their charter and file a certificate setting forth the object of the company, the amount of capital stock, the amount of stock each proposes to take, and such other matter as is required by law. The fee is paid and the Secretary of State grants the charter. The company can then proceed with business. The law does not state where the main office of the company shall be, and does not even provide that the company shall have an office in this State. It simply provides that one of the incorporators shall live in Delaware.

The Legislature also passed an additional act which provides a revenue for the State. The companies included are required to make a report to the Secretary of State on or before the first Tuesday of January annually of the amount of their gross receipts from business done in this State in the previous year. On this amount of gross receipts the tax is imposed. Failure of the corporation to pay the tax two years in succession shall work a forfeiture of its charter, and the Attorney-General shall proceed against such corporation in the Court of Chancery.

What inducements the State of New-Jersey holds out to capitalists may be surmised from the fact that the tax on corporations in that State is and has been for years one-tenth of 1 per cent on $3,000,000 capital, one-twentieth of 1 per cent on $5,000,000, and $50 for every $1,000,000 for concerns which have a capital of more than $5,000,000. The State's income from its tax on corporations, including railroad companies, which are taxed separately, for the year ending October 31, 1899, is estimated at $2,186,870. The filing fees in the office of the Secretary of State amount to about $70,000 a month, and these fees are collected at an almost nominal cost to the State.

In 1892 a number of prominent Jerseymen and others conceived the idea of facilitating the organization of corporations by having a trust company in New-Jersey which should devote itself wholly to corporate matters and affairs. A trust company charter was obtained, and the new company soon became the headquarters of incorporations in the State. At the close of 1892 about one hundred and fifty corporations had connected themselves with it. Branches of the company were established at East Orange and at Camden. The Corporation Trust Company of New-Jersey to-day is said to represent something over one thousand corporations, with a total capitalization of over $1,000,000,000, and the Trust Company at East Orange is said to represent about two hundred and fifty corporations, with aggregate capitalization of about $600,000,000, while the company at Camden has in its office something like five hundred corporations, representing an aggregate capitalization of $800,000,000.

The State of New-Jersey in 1896 revised its corporation laws, compelling corporations to have and maintain a principal office within the State of New-Jersey, in which should be kept at all times their stock and transfer books, and in charge of which there should be at all times a resident of the State of New-Jersey of full age or a corporation authorized by its charter so to act. In 1898 the Legislature of New-Jersey passed an additional law requiring every corporation organized under the laws of New-Jersey twice a year to file a statement in the office of the Secretary of State of New-Jersey, naming its principal office by street and number, and providing that in case of failure so to do the individual stockholders should be liable as co-partners, and further providing that in case of a false statement the officers should be liable for perjury and punishable by not less than ten years at hard labor. This act resulted in the exclusion of the "tramp" and "bubble" corporations. Apart from these regulations, there are no obstacles and no red tape to prevent the organization under New-Jersey laws of corporations for any lawful purpose.

TRANSFERS TO BROOKLYN.

RUMORS OF DEALS IN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS.

REPORT THAT THE MANHATTAN AND RAPID TRANSIT COMPANIES HAVE REACHED AN AGREEMENT—CHANGES IN STOCKS.

There were many rumors yesterday of deals among the transportation systems of Manhattan and Brooklyn, but most of them were guesses. There were, however, reports that seemed to have some foundation of a prospective arrangement between the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company and at least one of the systems in Manhattan.

The Brooklyn Rapid Transit not only controls all the surface lines in Brooklyn except one, but also all the elevated lines. The story is that an arrangement between the Rapid Transit company and the Manhattan Railway Company, which owns the elevated railroads in Manhattan, is under consideration, whereby trains may be run from Harlem and The Bronx across the Brooklyn Bridge and clear to Coney Island and Manhattan Beach. In any event, it is reported that there will be a transfer agreement between the Brooklyn Rapid Transit and the Manhattan company similar to that which is to go into effect on May 1 between the Manhattan and the Third Avenue Railroad Company in Manhattan.

There may be a transfer arrangement between the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company and the Third Avenue company, in Manhattan, and between the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company and the Metropolitan Street Railway Company, in Manhattan. The more immediate deal, however, is expected to go into force between the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company and the Manhattan company, so as to perfect an expeditious service to Coney Island and Manhattan Beach. The negotiations have not yet reached a stage where an official statement can be obtained, but it is probable that some announcement on the subject will be made within a week or ten days.

Brooklyn Rapid Transit stock was very active yesterday on the New-York Stock Exchange, and advanced to 134⅝, closing at 134, which, considering that the stock sold "ex rights," was a gain of six points from the closing on Thursday. Manhattan Railway stock was also active and strong. It rose to 127⅝ and closed at 126⅝, which was a gain of two and a half points from Thursday.

Metropolitan Street Railway stock,