LESSONS FROM FRANCE.

THE REV. DR. JOHNSTON'S SERMON AT THE MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

In his sermon last evening in the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church the Rev. Dr. Howard Agnew Johnston, the pastor, drew some lessons from French history which should arrest the thought of our own people. His text was from Isaiah xxi, 2: "A grievous vision is declared unto me." He said in part:

It was twelve years ago this summer that I went one Sunday morning in the city of Paris to the famous Catholic Gallican Church in the Rue d'Arras, where Père Hyacinthe preached to his loyal people. It proved to be a day when he preached one of his notable sermons. His sermon was taken from the first chapter of the book of the prophet Jeremiah, beginning at the words of the fifth verse: "I ordained thee to be a prophet unto the nations." Père Hyacinthe announced that the spirit of prophecy was upon him, and that he had a message for France. He emphasized the certainty of divine prophecy, and the inevitable application of the eternal principles inherent in God's dealings with men and nations in every age of the world. He said France was watched with more uneasiness by her neighbors than any other European nation. Europe is uneasy because France is unstable, and France will never be otherwise until she has the eternal principles of a pure religion at the very foundation of her government. To-day she is a republic; yesterday she was an empire; to-morrow she will be—no man knows what. France forgets the lessons of history, and forgets her duty to her children. The vast majority of her people are without a religious conscience, without clear religious convictions, and without true virtue. With tremendous earnestness this man, who stood for so many years for reform in the Church of Rome, asserted that this Church in France must be transformed from antechamber to the inmost sanctuary; that reform was needed in the Church, in the Sorbonne, in the Parliament and in the home. The end of the Church's labor must not be wealth and temporal power. A nation's luxury has ever been the precursor of that nation's fall. One great climax in the sermon was reached in the utterance: "The horrors of the French Revolution began in the splendors of Versailles."

I am not attempting to touch minute details to-night. It is to the picture in large outline that I ask your attention, for our lesson is to be found there. What are we sowing in our life as a people? How am I, as an individual citizen, to answer? One answer must be a sad confession of much indifference on the part of the individual citizen touching his duty. I desire to say a thankful word concerning the earnest addresses the Governor of our State has been making touching this very matter of our duty to see to it that our private life and public life are both strenuously virtuous and energetic. God hasten the day when our leaders shall preach and practise such doctrines! And God give us in this great land a new and deep concern for our National life that will lead us to prayer and to endeavor each one to exert only such an influence as shall tend to build into the fibre of our growth those elements of truth, humanity and righteousness which will more and more make us a people whose God is the Lord. Then shall we be truly blessed, and other nations shall receive stimulus and inspiration from our living.

DR. MENDES ON FRANCE AND AMERICA.

HE SPEAKS ON THE LESSONS OF THE DREYFUS CASE TO AMERICANS.

The Rev. Dr. H. Pereira Mendes spoke in the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, in Central Park West, yesterday on the lesson of the Dreyfus case to Americans. He said in part:

It teaches us the failure of the republic as a form of government in France. There the republic has developed militarism as in old Rome. This militarism has crushed justice, has hurled truth to the ground, and now places its iron heel upon righteousness.

But do we not find seeds of danger other than militarism in this country?

The public education system educates the head and the hand. Does it educate the heart sufficiently?

The honor of Washington, the nobility of Jefferson, the honesty of Franklin no longer form ideals to be copied. Imagine office-hunters or place seekers daring to approach such men to ask their influence for their personal gain! Imagine Washington, Jefferson and Franklin wishing to serve their country, but being told they must first swell the private purses of political leaders!

Of the perils of trusts, which can batten on the public even more effectually than the French aristocrats on the peasantry before 1789; of the wonderful organization of labor, which can unhinge traffic and trade or necessitate the intervention of State troops to shoot down their brothers, if need be; of the sensational daily papers, which with subtle suggestion poison with their reports of crimes pure minds in all homes; of the irreverence of the masses and the weakness of religion's influence, of the growth of disrespect for Sunday Sabbath, by those born in the creed which believes in it; let me not speak except to mention them.

EAST SIDE SYMPATHY FOR DREYFUS.

CONGRESSMAN BRADLEY ADDRESSES A MEETING IN MANDELBAUM HALL.

Mandelbaum Hall, at Willett and Delancey sts., was crowded Saturday evening with dwellers in the East Side, who had gathered to express their sympathy with Captain Dreyfus. The meeting was called to order by Benjamin M. Goldberger. Congressman Thomas J. Bradley said the same spirit which animated this country in proceeding to war against Spain, in order to right the wrongs which this country was inflicting on the people of Cuba, was now manifested in the universal condemnation of the action of the court martial which imposed the unjust sentence upon Captain Dreyfus. That this protest had produced an effect was shown in the latest news from France, which was that the Republic would right the wrong that had been done an innocent man.

Letters were read from Congressman Sulzer and Assemblyman Benjamin Hoffman. Resolutions were adopted by a unanimous vote, declaring that, whereas, Captain Dreyfus had been made a scapegoat, and had been sacrificed to save the honor and reputation of the staff of the French Army, the judgment of the court martial at Rennes be challenged. Among the other speakers at the meeting were Assemblyman Leon Sanders, Coroner Rausch, Alderman James Smith, and Senator Samuel J. Foley.

RELIGIOUS ASPECTS OF THE CASE.

The Rev. Dr. W. S. Crowe, pastor of the Church of the Eternal Hope, No. 142 West Eighty-first-st., took as the subject of his morning sermon yesterday "The Religious Aspects of the Dreyfus Case." Dr. Crowe's text was from Colossians iii, 9-14. Dr. Crowe said in part:

Let us keep the two phases of the Dreyfus case entirely distinct. One phase of it is that the French Army, which rules the politics of France, and which the French people are willing to accept as their masters, is unspeakably corrupt. The other phase of it is that when a great national crime is contemplated only a Jew, only for the sake of his religious belief, can be selected as the victim. The crime of conscienceless military politicians against law and principle and public order and humanity is the great issue, exactly as one of the New-York newspapers declares, but when the dominant faith of a nation can be made use of in the interest of crime the religious aspect of the problem also requires looking after. Let the newspapers deal with the secular phase of the problem; it behooves every Christian pulpit to deal with the fact that French Christianity allows itself to be made use of in the furtherance of political crime.

Religious persecution in France to-day is exactly what religious persecution everywhere has always been—a mixture of politics and superstition—a combination of villany and ignorance. Shrieking hypocrites, who care for no religion, supply the villany. The devout and thoughtless masses provide the superstition. Ignorant honesty is the tool of shrewd criminality.

FISH OIL FACTORY DESTROYED.

PROMISED LAND, LONG ISLAND, HAS A BLAZE CAUSING ABOUT $600,000 LOSS.

Amagansett, Long Island, Sept. 17.—The plant of the American Fisheries Company at Promised Land was destroyed by fire to-night. The fire broke out about 8 o'clock, and the entire plant was reduced to ashes within a couple of hours. There were no means of fighting the fire, and employes had to watch the buildings burn down. The buildings were saturated with oil spilled during the manufacture of the fish oil and other products, and the flame was intense. The fire could be seen for many miles on land, and must have been seen from the sea for a great distance. Eight buildings in all were destroyed. The fire reached its height when a thousand barrels of oil ready for shipment took fire. An effort had been made to save some of the barrels, but the heat was so intense that the work had to be abandoned. There was on hand about one thousand tons of fish and scrap, and this burned also.

It is said the machinery used in pressing out the oil and in the different processes of treating it cost the company half a million dollars to install a few years ago. This and the oil will be the principal loss. What the total amounts to is not known here, as no one connected with the plant will talk. All inquiry was referred to the New-York office, at No. 135 Front-st. It will probably not exceed $600,000, as the plant had deteriorated some, and the buildings themselves were not valuable. The wharves were burned, but the menhaden steamers were taken out in safety. The company has plants in the South and also in the East, so that the interruption to their business will not be great. The steamers bringing in the menhaden will be ordered to report at once at one of the other plants.

CONVENTIONS IN THIS STATE.

REPUBLICANS NOMINATE BENJAMIN CONGER FOR ASSEMBLY AT ITHACA.

Ithaca, N. Y., Sept. 17.—The Republicans of Tompkins County held their annual convention for the purpose of putting a ticket in nomination for the coming election in Ithaca yesterday afternoon. Senator E. C. Stewart was made chairman. The attendance was unusually large. An interesting contest between the organization men took place, the greatest interest centring in the fight for County Treasurer. For this office Charles Ingersoll, of Ithaca, defeated four competitors.

For the office of Sheriff, C. S. Seaman, of Ithaca, defeated Grant Curry by a vote of 70 to 43. Benjamin Conger, of Groton, was nominated for member of the Assembly, and G. S. Tarbill, of Ithaca, was chosen delegate to the judicial convention. Dr. D. P. Terry, of the town of Ulysses, received the largest number of votes for Sheriff in the First School Commission District. E. W. Updyke was made nominee, and W. E. Brown, jr., in the Second District. Ex-Senator C. W. Pound, now professor in the College of Law, Cornell University, moved a resolution pledging a new allegiance of Tompkins County Republicans to the National and State platforms, and commending the administrations of President McKinley and Governor Roosevelt.

CHILLY DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

MANY TOWNS SENT NO DELEGATES, AND THE NOMINATION WENT BY ACCLAMATION AT HORNELLSVILLE.

Hornellsville, N. Y., Sept. 17 (Special).—The Democratic IId Assembly District Convention was called to order in the City Hall yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Ira G. Day, of Dansville, was elected chairman, and "Mel" Kinne, of Hornellsville, secretary. A rollcall of the delegates then followed, and demonstrated the fact that not more than half the towns in the district were represented at all, while the remainder had only a scattering representation. The convention was not in session to exceed fifteen minutes, and the delegates hardly had time to warm their seats before it was all over. On motion of James B. Day, of Hornellsville, ex-member of the Democratic State Committee, Charles O. Cotton, of Avoca, was nominated for member of Assembly by acclamation, there being no opposition or other candidate who was anxious to accept the empty honor and sacrifice himself on the altar of party loyalty, for that is all the nomination amounts to in the IId Assembly District of Steuben County to a Democratic candidate, who has a nominal Republican plurality of a thousand to fifteen hundred to overcome, and one of the most able and popular men in the district, Hyatt C. Hatch, of Atlanta, as his opponent on the Republican ticket. Mr. Hatch has served two years in the Assembly, and was nominated by acclamation for a third term, an honor received by no other man since Milo M. Acker, of this city, served in the Assembly.

OPPOSING HAYES IN THE XXXIIID.

Appeals to the Democratic voters of the XXXIIID Assembly District to vote at the primary election to-morrow and aid in defeating Nicholas J. Hayes, the Tammany leader there, are made in circulars which have been scattered through the district by the friends of James G. Collins, who is making a fight for the leadership. Hayes is accused of importing persons from Troy, N. Y., and from New-Jersey to become office holders in the city, while faithful Tammany workers in the district have been kept out of office. To let the voters know whose corns have been trodden on, a list of names is printed on the circular.

CAUSE OF STRIKE AT CRAMPS' SHIPYARD.

DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN JOHN F. KEEGAN, OF THE MACHINISTS' UNION, AND EDWIN S. CRAMP—THE LATTER ATTRIBUTES IT TO ENGLISH SHIPBUILDING INFLUENCE.

Philadelphia, Sept. 17 (Special).—John F. Keegan, business agent of the International Association of Machinists, says that Edwin S. Cramp's statement that the strike is inspired by English shipbuilding interests is absurd on its face, as the employes of Cramps' do not desire to force any trade away from their own centre. The strike is a part of a general movement in this country for a reduction to the nine-hour system, he says.

Mr. Keegan asserts that Mr. Cramp's comparison of wages paid in England and in this country is unfair, inasmuch as $10 has a purchasing power there equal to $15 here. He also says the figures concerning the wages of English shipbuilding mechanics are inaccurate. For instance, English machinists who have been working in Cramp's shipyard received in their native country from 38 to 45 shillings a week, or $11.25 at the maximum, while, according to Mr. Cramp's figures, they receive $1.37 a day, or $8.22 a week. The English mechanic, Mr. Keegan claims, lives as well as if not better than the American, and is able to put 10 per cent out of his wages in the saving funds.

Mr. Cramp this afternoon gave out a supplementary statement to the effect that Mr. Keegan has a representative named O'Connell in England attending to his interest in this strike. Mr. Keegan says that Mr. O'Connell is the president of the International Association of Machinists, and is attending the British Congress of Trades Unions at Plymouth as a representative of the American Federation of Labor, and not in any way in the interest of the nine-hour movement, which is purely American, and was settled, so far as the British mechanics are concerned, years ago.

Edwin S. Cramp was quoted in "The Philadelphia Times" of Saturday as saying that the recent strike at the Cramps' shipbuilding yard was "part of a gigantic scheme of English shipbuilding firms to organize a general strike among employes of similar firms here, and to regain the ground they had lost in the big English strike two years ago.

"The American shipbuilding industry is the real objective point of attack," he said. "Our firm, as labor agitators now plying their vocation in this city well know, is being made the scapegoat of the scheme.

"If this attempt upon us had succeeded every American shipyard would have been attacked.

"The motive is plain, for it would have taken the transatlantic building away from this country and returned it to England.

"There are at present ten ships of this class in the market, and American builders are preferred as bidders," continued Mr. Cramp. "A tieup of all the shipyards here would naturally place these contracts and many others on the books of foreign shipbuilders. This is the true inwardness of the clever scheme, and the American public should be made acquainted with the facts.

"Eleven hundred and sixty men in our employ have had their wages increased since the first of the year at least 10 per cent. These skilled hands are distributed throughout the thirty departments of our plant. They include pattern makers, ship joiners and carpenters, boiler makers, machinists, blacksmiths and riveters. Take for instance, the case of machinists. They average from $14 to $20, according to the class of work they are engaged upon. Where we pay $14 to a machinist he gets $11 elsewhere.

"The following comparison of wages received by skilled hands on the Clyde bank, England, and at this yard makes interesting reading. Machinists on the Clyde average $1.37 for a nine hour workday, while we pay the same class of labor from $14 to $20 a week. English moulders average $9 a week, and we pay from $15 to $21 and $22. Blacksmiths on the other side receive $1.50 a day, while Cramps' blacksmiths average $16.50 a week. Angle iron smiths here make $4 for a nine hour workday on contract work. The same kind of labor on the Clyde makes $1.75 a day.

"This," emphasized Mr. Cramp, "gives the general public a true notion of existing labor conditions prevailing in England and in this country. The same comparison could just as readily be made between woodworkers abroad and here. Ship carpenters in our employ get 30 cents an hour for ten hours a day, as do also our ship painters. Pattern makers receive as high as $22 a week. On the other side of the Atlantic Ocean no such wages as these prevail, yet labor agitators have been hired by foreign labor organizations to foment strife among American iron and ship workers."

In answer to further questions, Mr. Cramp said: "The company is capitalized at $5,000,000, and on this investment at 5 per cent the stockholders receive $250,000. As to other sources of revenue, $3,000,000 is paid out to our workmen for the labor they sell us, $2,000,000 more goes for material, and whatever surplus is left over is placed to the credit of betterments. There is also to be taken into account the extensive improvements already started by our firm. When completed the number of employes aggregate in the neighborhood of 7,500 or 8,000."

FATHER JOHNSON'S SALARY.

In the September issue of his parish paper Father William Everett Johnson, the rector of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, in West One-hundred-and-thirty-sixth-st., takes occasion to call the attention of his people to the fact that their rector's salary had not been paid for the months of June, July and August.

"Let it be understood," he writes in his letter to his people, "that I am not uttering this in the way of complaint at all. It is just as much my fault as it is yours. I am making the confession for us all. This failure is not due to any poverty on the part of the parish, as the books for last year plainly show. During that year you not only paid all of the regular expenses of the church, but spent considerable in repairs and added to the sinking fund."

The Church of the Redeemer is the result of the comparatively recent consolidation of the old Church of the Redeemer, at Park-ave. and Eighty-second-st., and the former Church of the Holy Nativity, which stood where the united parishes now stand. Father Johnson was the rector of the old Church of the Redeemer, and became rector of the new, the former rector of the Church of the Holy Nativity, the Rev. Guy L. Wallis, having joined the staff of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin.

CROKER ATTACKS MOSS

Continued from first page.

Commission is loosened I am not hopeful of the solution of that problem. Tammany Hall believes in and is fighting for municipal ownership of all franchises, railroads, water and gas, and will continue to fight for them so long as the organization exists.

I wish to add that Moss and Mazet are trying to demoralize the Fire Department, which everybody admits is the finest body of men in the world, by summoning them to testify before the Platt committee.

Mr. Croker ended his statement by saying that Fire Commissioner Scannell "has broken up the political gang that was created by Platt's man Quigg in the Department during the Strong administration. Quigg is out for revenge, and is using Moss and Mazet to get it."

MR. MOSS'S REPLY.

When the foregoing statement was shown to Mr. Moss last evening he made the following answer:

Croker is a fool. He shows the signs of incipient paresis. His conduct will kill him yet. He is no longer a leader, certainly not a statesman. He and his crowd of Ramapo plunderers are on the run. The great boss is reeling in his intellect as well as in his saddle. Why does he attack me? Who am I? Do the people care particularly about my character? It is the frenzy of a man hit by the sharp steel. In his impotent rage his senseless attack is calling attention to his own wretched history, and the forgotten facts of a former day are now being remembered against him. Perhaps the ghost of McKenna troubles him. There are things we try to forget, and he brings them back to memory. He is talking. Let him go on. The people will judge fairly.

As to the houses and Lynch, I do not know Lynch nor his case, and never had any dealings with him, directly or indirectly.

Mr. Clarke could not be seen last evening.

AMEND THE SECTION, SAYS MR. MOSS.

DECLARES THAT NO. 471 DOES NOT NOW PROTECT THE CITY.

"Section 471 of the charter must be amended, if it is to stand as a safeguard to the city against fraud," said Frank Moss, counsel to the Mazet Committee, to a Tribune reporter yesterday afternoon. His remark was brought out by the statement of Seth Low, which was printed in the Sunday papers. In this statement Mr. Low admits that he is responsible for the section and that he had general charge of framing it. Mr. Low said further that the section was intended to offer a check to the powers of contract which appear to inhere in the Commissioner of Water Supply, and that it was the purpose of the framers of the section to make it impossible for the city to be imposed upon by any such company as the Ramapo. Consequently, the power to contract was taken out of the hands of one man and put into the guardianship of the Board of Public Improvements. According to Section 471, therefore, all contracts relating to the water supply must meet with the assent of this Board.

"This section should be amended," continued Mr. Moss, "because as it now stands it does not offer the check to imposition which its framers claim for it. For instance, if a company can enter into a contract, with the assent of this Board, to furnish water to the city, it can then go ahead regardless of interference from Mayor or Municipal Assembly, expend money in carrying out its contractual obligations, and then compel the Board of Estimate by mandamus proceedings to issue bonds for paying the company as stipulated in the contract.

"Again, this Board of Public Improvement appears to be a body whose responsibility is utterly nil. It is not elected, and therefore not responsible to its electors. Instead, it is appointed by the Mayor, and thus would seem responsible to him. It is not, however, as has been learned in the course of the investigation. When the Mayor was asked where the responsibility lay he said that the Commissioners were responsible for their own departments, and when they came to him to get his opinion he refused to talk with them about their work.

"It may be asked, accordingly, what amendment is necessary. Simply this: That contracts relating to water supply should be governed by the same provisions as apply to all other contracts. These provisions are that contracts involving an expenditure of over $1,000 shall be open to competitive bids. Although these provisions might be said to hold in regard to the section as it now stands, nevertheless, for the sake of avoiding all doubt, they should be expressly incorporated in the section.

"The subpœna has been served on Mr. Low in order to learn all that is possible in regard to the authorship of this much mooted section. I have read his statement. It treats of the subject exhaustively and shows a thoroughness of detail that will be of assistance to the investigation. I admire the frankness of the man's utterances."

When Mr. Moss was asked in regard to the plans of the investigation for to-morrow, he said that he could not disclose the particular line of work to be followed out.

"But I can say," he added emphatically, "that we have by no means got through with this Ramapo muddle, and that the best act is yet to come."

A MANIFESTO FROM SHEEHAN.

SENATOR MUNZINGER GIVES IT OUT, AND VENGEANCE IS SWORN AGAINST GOODWIN AND SMITH.

Senator Munzinger, John C. Sheehan's lieutenant in the Tammany factional fight in the IXth Assembly District, last night gave out the following statement in regard to the fight from the Sheehan headquarters at the Pequod Club:

As the canvass in the IXth Assembly District is now over, the lines are drawn, and those for and against the regular organization are well known, and it is safe to say that the ticket nominated by the regular organization, with John C. Sheehan at its head, will receive a very large majority.

The campaign has been characterized by the most contemptible methods ever resorted to in this city, and I doubt if as bad were ever before attempted in any place. False, slanderous and malicious stories have been circulated; intimidation has been attempted and carried out; men who have for years been working at the polls as Tammany captains have been removed from their positions or injured in their business by Goodwin and Smith, who until seven years ago were doing all they could to destroy Tammany Hall. They have been telling people that Richard Croker is behind them, and that Croker would furnish all the money they could use in the district. They only recently gave out a statement containing names of parties who they said had resigned from the General Committee and from the Pequod Club, which was as false and misleading as other stories of a like kind. There have been but twenty resignations from the Pequod Club in the last three months, while over three hundred new members have been elected.

The story given out on Saturday of the resignation of seven members from the Pequod Club shows the lamentable straits to which they are put. For the last two weeks they have endeavored to get the names of ten men who would resign, saying that they wanted to spring it on the closing day of the campaign. Three of the seven referred to denied any authority for the use of their names, and no resignation whatever from the other four has been received at the Pequod Club.

As a last resort, they are now threatening intimidation at the polls, and mean to delay voting in every possible way—in fact, many voters who are outspoken against Goodwin have been approached and asked to stay away from the polls so that dummies may be voted in their places. A systematic attempt will be made to vote on other people's names throughout this district by getting ahead of the rightful voter and voting in his name.

We will take care of Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Smith after election, and hope none of their deluded followers will run the risk of going to State prison. As for Goodwin and Smith, they will be followed to the bitter end.

The statement ended with the names of fifty-one Tammany men in the district who joined the Pequod Club on Friday night.

VALUABLE HEIRLOOMS STOLEN.

WEDDING GIFTS AND OTHER ARTICLES VALUED AT $2,500 TAKEN FROM A HOUSE IN YONKERS.

One of the largest robberies in the city's history was committed last night in Yonkers, the house of Mrs. Levi P. Rose, No. 53 South Broadway, being entered by burglars while the members of the household were attending church. The fact that robbery had been committed was not discovered until after 9 o'clock, when one of Mrs. Rose's daughters, entering her bedchamber, found everything in great disorder. A hasty investigation showed that a window on the ground floor had been forced open and an entrance effected in that manner.

The police were at once informed, and the reserve was called out, and detectives were sent to watch all the points of egress from the city. At midnight no arrest had been made.

The thieves visited all of the bedrooms in the house, from every one of which they took articles of jewelry, including family heirlooms. On the ground floor they operated in the dining room, and carried away all of the silverware at hand, after having ransacked the room, leaving it in great disorder.

It is believed that the thieves had a horse and wagon to carry away their plunder, which is valued at $2,500. The Rose house is on the principal thoroughfare of the city, one block from Getty Square, where three policemen are always on duty. The family is numbered among the wealthy residents of Yonkers, and moves in the best society. The members were in attendance at St. John's Episcopal Church, which is a short distance from their home. Mrs. Rose's daughter was married recently to F. Leo Hunter, and it is believed that the knowledge of the costly wedding presents being in the house led the thieves to mark it for robbery.

MYSTERY IN A WOMAN'S DEATH

HER HUSBAND, WHO QUARRELLED WITH HER, CONTRADICTS HIMSELF AND IS HELD.

Timothy Ryan came out of his flat about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and told some of his neighbors, it is said, that his wife was dead, and that he had found her in bed after coming home and letting himself in with a latchkey. The police, when they were informed of the death and went up to Ryan's apartment, at No. 518 West Fiftieth-st., found the woman lying on the floor, with her head resting in a pool of blood. Ryan told them that she had fallen and fractured her skull.

An ambulance was called from Roosevelt Hospital by Policeman Heckler as soon as he saw the body and Surgeon Grouth pronounced her dead. Coroner Zucca, after an autopsy, declared that she had come to her death from a wound at the back and base of her skull, which had fractured the bone. From the character of the fracture, the woman might have got it either from a blunt instrument or from a fall. Ryan insisted that the woman had fallen. His two children, Kate and Edward, ten and seven years old, told the police that their father and mother had had a quarrel, but said that they did not fight.

On account of the doubt as to the cause of death, Detectives Lockwood and Carter locked Ryan up in the West Forty-seventh-st. station. Ryan declined to say anything except that his wife had fallen.

Ryan is a foreman in the employ of the West Shore Railway, and has a good reputation as a hardworking and sober man among his neighbors. He told the police last night that he was in bed when his wife fell and fatally injured herself.

FOREIGN COMMERCE INCREASING.

FIGURES FOR EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR THE HIGHEST IN THE COUNTRY'S HISTORY.

Washington, Sept. 17 (Special).—The foreign commerce of the United States in the month of August, 1899, is the largest in the history of that month. The exports are nearly 25 per cent higher than those of August of the phenomenal year 1898, and 33 per cent higher than the average of August in the years 1894, 1895 and 1896, while for the eight months of the calendar year ending with August they are the highest in our history. The total exports for the eight months ending with August, 1899, were $792,595,332, against $778,632,207 in 1898, $641,979,339 in 1897, and $602,298,472 in the great export year of 1892.

The importations for August also show a marked increase, being $66,718,737, against $49,677,349 in August last year, and $39,844,605 in August, 1897. While the details of the August importations are not at hand, the details of the July imports, which have recently been completed, indicate that the growth in importation is largely in the class of materials used by manufacturers and in tropical foodstuffs. In the seven months ending with July the importation of raw fibres for use in manufacturing amounted to $13,260,530, against $10,382,321 in the corresponding months of 1898 and $9,032,983 in the corresponding months of 1897. Rubber importations in the seven months of 1899 are $21,190,323, against $15,554,792 in the corresponding months of 1898, and $11,652,936 in the corresponding months of 1897. Imports of raw silk for use in manufacturing amounted in the seven months of 1899 to $20,381,197, against $15,227,303 in the corresponding seven months of 1898, and $12,380,160 in the corresponding months of 1897. Imports of hides and skins in the seven months ending with July, 1899, were $27,591,356, against $24,583,092 in the corresponding months of 1898 and $20,466,402 in the corresponding months of 1897. In tropical foodstuffs the increase is also apparent. The imports of fruits and nuts in the seven months of 1899 were $10,989,623, against $7,749,278 in the corresponding months of 1898 and $9,014,118 in the corresponding months of 1897; cocoa, $3,548,146 in the seven months ending with July, 1899, against $2,316,970 in 1898 and $1,754,732 in 1897, while of sugar the imports of the seven months of 1899 were $67,777,398, against $48,973,680 in the corresponding months of last year.

The growth in exports is in both agricultural products and manufactures. The August exportation of breadstuffs was $25,580,352 in 1899, against $19,909,329 in August, 1898, $25,513,491 in August, 1897, and $14,618,733 in August, 1896. Of provisions the exportation of August, 1899, was $15,584,755, against $13,489,098 in August, 1898, $12,400,566 in August, 1897, and $10,489,152 in August, 1896. Mineral oils also show an increase, being for August, 1899, $6,565,000, against $5,010,507 in August, 1898, $5,691,276 in August, 1897, and $5,618,276 in August, 1896. Taking the four great articles which are named in the advance statement of exports of domestic products—breadstuffs, provisions, mineral oils and cotton—the total for the month of August was $53,925,488, against $44,558,510 in August of last year, $48,305,066 in August, 1897, and $36,631,485 in August, 1896.

The following table shows the exportations in the eight months ending with August, 1899, compared with the similar period of corresponding years since 1890:

Year.	Total exports.	Year.	Total exports.
1890	$503,040,366	1895	$499,387,403
1891	554,738,885	1896	580,930,792
1892	602,298,472	1897	641,697,550
1893	531,105,408	1898	778,632,207
1894	517,819,691	1899	792,595,332

THREE HOTELS BURNED.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT HAMMEL'S STATION, ROCKAWAY.

Three of the largest hotels at Hammel's Station, Rockaway, were destroyed by fire early yesterday morning. The flames were kept from adjoining cottages and buildings by hard work on the part of the firemen, who were hampered by a lack of water pressure.

The fire was the largest Rockaway has had in a number of years. For a time it looked as if it would spread and rival in extent the fire which a few years ago swept away almost all of the seaside part of the beach. Fortunately the wind was not high, and what there was of it was blowing in a direction which did not force the fire toward the adjoining buildings.

The fire started, as nearly as can be learned, in or near the kitchen of the Phillips Pavilion. The flames were first noted by a policeman on patrol about 3 o'clock, and were then in possession of the kitchen and the part of the hotel immediately adjoining. An alarm was turned in, and the entire fire fighting force of the beach was called to the scene. The flames had a firm hold on the hotel by the time the firemen arrived, and within a few minutes they had spread to the Grobe Mertens and Mansch hotels adjoining.

Chief Dasibby, when he saw that the three big frame structures were doomed, concentrated all his force upon the nearby cottages and other buildings, and also summoned the firemen from Far Rockaway, who responded and aided in holding the flames to the three hotels.

The water pressure was poor, and this hampered the firemen greatly. Had there been sufficient pressure the flames, it is said, might have been mastered before they reached the two hotels which caught from the pavilion.

St. Mary's Home is close to the fire, and when it seemed that the flames might reach the building the children were marched out. They had been aroused soon after the fire broke out, and were held in readiness to get out. The firemen kept the building from catching, and later the children returned to their beds.

The season being over, the hotels were almost empty, and the people in them escaped without trouble. In her fright Mrs. Phillips forgot her jewelry, and it was destroyed. She says the lost jewelry was worth $1,400. The ruins were wetted down yesterday, and search is being made for the diamonds.

Soon after the fire broke out George Lamber, a fireman, was working on the roof of Phillips's Pavilion and fell from it to the ground. He sustained a compound fracture of the right arm, and was severely injured internally. He may die. Charles Frey, another fireman, fell from the same roof and sustained a bad scalp wound and a bad gash in the left side, and had one of his ankles badly sprained. The fire burned out quickly, and in less than two hours after the flames broke out the danger was over. The fire burned over an area of about two acres.

The loss is estimated at about $75,000. The Holland estate owned the Phillips Pavilion. The loss on this is said to be $10,000. Louis Phillips, the lessee, owned the furniture and everything in the building. He estimates his loss at about $10,000. Grobe Mertens's loss is estimated by him at $25,000, of which $15,000 is on the building and the remainder on the contents. Mrs. P. Smith, owner of Mansch's Hotel, loses about $25,000 on building and contents. The destruction of walks, booths and outbuildings about the hotels will add to the loss. The insurance is said to have been about $60,000. The cause of the fire is not known.

NEWS BROOKLYN.

PREPARING FOR PRIMARIES

SLATES BEING MADE AND SMASHED ON ALL SIDES.

ELECTIONS TO-MORROW NIGHT FOR DELEGATES TO THE VARIOUS CONVENTIONS—LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WOODRUFF TO BE ON HAND—DADY MAY QUIT.

Primary elections will be held to-morrow night. Practical politicians realize that these are the most important of all of the elections, and that upon the relative strength of the vote brought out often depends the fate of a party's candidates. The fight this year in Kings County, therefore, will be a battle royal, for the Democrats, who hold all of the county offices and sixteen of the twenty-one Assembly districts, will do all in their power to retain what they possess, with its vast amount of patronage for the faithful, while the Republicans naturally will make a hard fight to destroy at the polls the strength, power and supremacy of Willoughby Street. Hugh McLaughlin and his followers are confident of victory, but they are, nevertheless, working with might and main to bring out every Democratic voter in Kings County. Day after day Mr. McLaughlin is in conference in the auction rooms with his lieutenants and election district, ward and Assembly district leaders. It is so on the Republican side, but an impetus will be given to their efforts to-day by the arrival of Lieutenant Governor Woodruff, who will be here from the Adirondacks. He believes that he has a good fighting chance, in spite of the confidence of the Democrats, who are strong in the belief that the stand of Controller Coler and Bridge Commissioner Shea in the Ramapo water scheme will prove a great and winning argument in the elections from the viewpoint of Democracy.

To counteract this it will be shown by the Republicans that the Kings County members of the Municipal Assembly have become experts in holding up bond issues which have been much needed for necessary improvements. The Woodruff men will also attack the administration of Tammany Hall, and declare, on and off the stump, in the newspapers and by pamphlets, that Wigwam rule under Mayor Van Wyck and the inspiration of Richard Croker is as bad, if not worse, than it was before the Lexow Committee disclosed its corruption to the world, and that the Mazet Investigating Committee has proved that the leaders of Tammany, who are at the head of city departments, have been afraid to state frankly and fully how the business of their departments is conducted. These will be the main arguments advanced by the Republicans.

The Democrats will try to connect prominent Republican leaders with the Ramapo question, and will revive the scandals which were unearthed under the administration of Frederick W. Wurster, the last Mayor of the old city of Brooklyn. They will also be insistent on the stand taken by Controller Coler and Bridge Commissioner Shea on the Ramapo deal.

In many of the districts on both sides there will be lively fights at the primaries to-morrow night. A month ago it seemed as if there would be bitter contests in every Assembly district. They were of the kind which usually precedes an election, however, and were largely in the nature of a bluff. Kickers were placated and brought into line by compromise or recognition, and now there are only a few really serious fights. The total registration in 1898 was 201,816. Of this number 198,963 voted, leaving only 2,853 unrecorded.

The independent Republicans will work for the regulars this year and loyally support Mr. Woodruff, who for the first time in his political career is acknowledged to be the leader of the Republican organization in Kings County. They help Mr. Woodruff because they believe that the party under the leadership will adopt better methods and those principles and ideas for which they fought and sacrificed so much in previous campaigns.

Another inducement that has caused them to swing into line is knowledge that Michael J. Dady, chairman of the Executive Committee, has practically decided to relieve Mr. Woodruff of all embarrassment by retiring from the chairmanship. The friends of Mr. Dady say that he will not be a candidate for re-election. He does not wish to embarrass Mr. Woodruff, and he knows that the independents dislike him and his political methods. He is, nevertheless, a powerful factor in the politics of the Third Ward, and while his power lasts he must be reckoned with by the leaders of the party. If he does retire from the chairmanship it will be of his own volition. He is not a member of a kindergarten school of politics, and he knows how to be re-elected if he wants to succeed himself. His friends say that he will have little difficulty to-morrow night in defeating the ticket of R. Ross Appleton in the 1st Assembly District.

The Republican leaders are considering the names of ex-Congressman Howe, William Cullen Bryant, James Niblo, ex-Senator William H. Reynolds, George S. Richards and Civil Justice Jacob Neu for Sheriff, and that of Henry C. Mayette, Low leader in the Twenty-fifth Ward, for County Clerk. Mr. Niblo says that, whether the leaders are agreeable or not, he will have enough delegates in the County Convention on September 28 to nominate him for Sheriff. The leaders are by no means unanimously in favor of Mr. Niblo, and while conciliation and harmony are the watchwords of the hour, it is unlikely that they will back him.

The Republican County Committee will meet on September 28, at 4 o'clock p. m. The Assembly conventions will be held on October 2. The General Committee will be organized on September 26, when the newly elected members from Kings County will be present. The Aldermanic Convention will be held on September 28. The Executive Committee will meet on October 3, and the Judiciary Convention will be held on October 4.

Jacob D. Remsen, Republican leader of the Thirty-second Ward, is a candidate for Assemblyman in the XVIIIth Assembly District.

OBJECT TO OLD BLOUSES.

MEMBERS OF THE FOURTEENTH REGIMENT OPPOSED TO WEARING SECOND HAND UNIFORMS IN THE DEWEY PARADE.

There is considerable discontent among the members of the 14th Regiment over the suits they are ordered to wear in the Dewey Day parade. It was expected by the members that there would be new uniforms issued by the State, but they will have to wear old uniforms that have been discarded by other regiments. The men will wear their regular State trousers, with a full dress blouse and a dark helmet. While they do not object to the trousers, they do to the blouse and helmet. Some of the blouses issued to the men last week had seen service in the 22d and 13th regiments, and bore names to prove it. The helmets, originally black, showed signs of hard usage, and had a grayish appearance. The men of the regiment, while willing to turn out in full strength on Dewey Day, do not care to wear second hand clothes, and in this they are supported by their officers.

The regiment since it came back from the war has had considerable trouble. It is not recruited up to its full strength, and is mainly made up of recruits, and the old members who look for their discharges are put off from day to day by officers who desire to keep them in the regiment.

Every man who was a member of the National Guard of the State and served through the war is entitled to his discharge, but the officers of the 14th Regiment do not care to lose the men who served under them at Chickamauga, and are doing their utmost to keep them in the service. The private who saw service thoroughly understand the way they were treated when at camp, and are not at all pleased at the way stripes are put on non-commissioned officers who refused to go away with them in May a year ago. The old members are not at all pleased with the treatment they are receiving, and there is a chance of a small showing of the regiment on Dewey Day.

OBITUARY.

JOHN K. BROWN.

John K. Brown, a well known framer and rigger, who was stricken with apoplexy in the Real Estate Exchange, in Montague-st., on Thursday, died on Saturday at his home, No. 685 Degraw-st. He was born in Providence, R. I., in 1846. For nearly twenty years he had been interested in building operations in Brooklyn. He was a member of Ezel Lodge, F. and A. M. His widow, one son and three daughters survive him. The funeral will be held today at 2 p. m., and the Rev. Cortland Myers will conduct the services.

JOSEPH STERN.

Joseph St