THE HOUSE COMMITTEES.

MR. HENDERSON NOT EXPECTED TO MAKE MANY CHANGES.

BOTH MR. PAYNE AND MR. CANNON LIKELY TO BE RETAINED IN THEIR IMPORTANT POSTS—THE LIST MAY BE READY WHEN CONGRESS MEETS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Nov. 18.—To all comers who inquired for news about the House committees, Representative Henderson has said that he could impart no information. He did say this morning, however, that it was his purpose to complete the task, if possible, before Congress convened. The Speaker to be, it is remarked, is looking the picture of health, and has not let the subject of the organization of the House rest too heavily on his spirits, while he has undoubtedly given it the larger share of his time and thoughts. A conservative man, of wide experience in public life, he desires to avail himself of the best advice and enter on the duty of making appointments fully prepared. His principal difficulty will be in reconciling conflicting claims, but naturally he will be relieved of some of his troubles by following precedents. Doubtless in many instances the senior Republican in service on a committee, other things being equal, will be selected. Another trouble will be the placing of new members. Here he will not be embarrassed with claims for chairmanships, for the new man will be content with a good assignment on some committee he fancies will give him a chance for work or prominence. There are 119 new members. The last Speaker's task was easier after his first term in office. Colonel Henderson will have the benefit of Mr. Reed's experience, and will find that if he makes few departures from the last organization of the House he will save himself much annoyance and perhaps do the fittest thing for the promotion of business in Congress. Nevertheless, some changes will be considered necessary.

THE LEADING CHAIRMANSHIPS.

The talk here in respect to the two leading chairmanships—those of Ways and Means and Appropriations—has always assumed that the last incumbent would be reappointed. Mr. Payne succeeded by seniority to the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Dingley. Usually this place carries with it the leadership of the party on the floor. It is not supposed that any one else is likely to be preferred to the experienced member from New-York, although Mr. Dalzell's name is sometimes mentioned in connection with the place.

Mr. Cannon, of Illinois, long the chairman or minority leader of the important Appropriations Committee, is the best equipped man in Congress for his place, of which fact Mr. Henderson is well aware. The new House will therefore have for its principal chairmen two men of approved ability, skill and knowledge.

For the leadership on the floor, in other respects, the public may look to the constitution of the Rules Committee, whether that committee be organized on the old basis or be reconstructed as a partisan steering committee. The Committee on Banking and Currency will not be so important in the LVIth Congress as it would have been if the subject of a currency measure had not been devolved on a Republican caucus. The measure it has been framing will be submitted to the party conference, and there be finally determined, no matter if the Banking and Currency Committee should have some part in its consideration as a committee. For the chairmanship of this committee these men are mentioned: Mr. Brosius, of Pennsylvania, who has precedent; Mr. McCleary, of Minnesota; Mr. Fowler, of New-Jersey, and Mr. Knox, of Massachusetts. If he should not be taken as chairman of the last named committee, Mr. Fowler would be eligible for the chairmanship of the Committee on Immigration, of which he was ranking member in the LVth Congress, Chairman Danforth having died.

SOME POSSIBLE CHANGES.

Another New-Jersey man, Mr. Gardner, was chairman of the Labor Committee, and still another, Mr. Loudenslager, was chairman of the Committee on Pensions. Mr. Sherman may be reappointed chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee. The chairmanship of the great Committee on the Judiciary, of which Mr. Henderson himself was chairman in the last Congress, will be an honor much coveted among lawyers. Mr. Ray, of New-York, ranked Mr. McCall, of Massachusetts, but the former may prefer to remain chairman of Invalid Pensions. It is understood that Mr. Cooper, of Wisconsin, will contest with Mr. Burton, of Ohio, the chairmanship of the River and Harbor Committee.

One of the best committees is that on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, headed in the last House by Mr. Hepburn, of Iowa. As a man of ability and experience and a friend of the Speaker, it is presumed Mr. Hepburn will fare pretty well in the assignments, and therefore may again take the chairmanship of Commerce.

The latest speculations respecting the chairmen of committees include a mention of Mr. Sherman as chairman of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, with a place on Appropriations to fill one of the six notable vacancies on that great committee. It is likewise said that he has always desired the chairmanship of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, recently held by Mr. Hepburn, and that if Mr. Hepburn should receive the chairmanship of the Judiciary the New-Yorker might fall heir to his place. Mr. Chickering, of New-York, who was chairman of the Committee on Railways and Canals in the LVth Congress, has priority for the place of chairman of the Printing Committee, and it has been suggested that he might prefer the latter to the former in the new Congress. The speculation respecting Mr. Sherman comes from Western sources supposed to be friendly to the ambition of Mr. Curtis, of Kansas, to be chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee.

FAIL TO GET A NEW TRIAL.

APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF PHILADELPHIA LAWYERS CONVICTED OF BRIBERY REFUSED.

Philadelphia, Nov. 18.—Judge McPherson, of the United States District Court, before whom Ellery P. Ingham, ex-United States District Attorney, and Harvey K. Newitt, Mr. Ingham's law partner and former assistant, were tried and convicted of the charges of conspiracy and bribing a Secret Service operative, to-day rendered a decision refusing to grant a new trial to the defendants.

Ingham and Newitt were arrested in connection with the revenue stamp counterfeiting conspiracy headed by William M. Jacobs and W. L. Kendig, of Lancaster, Penn. At the trial it was shown that Ingham had received money from Kendig to be expended in the bribery of a Secret Service official. According to the testimony Newitt gave this money to McManus, an operative of the Secret Service Bureau, for the purpose of keeping Jacobs and Kendig informed as to the movements of the Secret Service Bureau.

Ingham and Newitt were convicted after the jury had been out for two hours. Immediately counsel for the defence made a motion for a new trial, and argument was heard this week. The principal reason for a new trial for the defendants as furnished by counsel was that one of the jurors, John Daly, was insane while the trial was in progress, and not competent to try the case. In his decision to-day Judge McPherson overrules the reasons, and asserts that there is no valid reason for a retrial. Ingham and Newitt will be sentenced next week, probably Monday. It is expected that the defence will carry the case to the Circuit Court of Appeals.

INCREASE OF IMMIGRATION.

Washington, Nov. 18.—Reports to the Commissioner of Immigration show that for the months of July, August and September of this year the number of immigrants admitted to the United States was 78,365, which is an increase of 19,083 over the same months of last year.

NO NEED TO REDISTRICT BUFFALO.

Buffalo, Nov. 18.—City Clerk Gethoefer says there will not be any need of redistricting the city next year. He bases his opinion on two grounds: First, that not one district in the entire 108 polled seven hundred votes, the limit provided by law, at the last election, and, second, the working of the voting machines, as he observed it, was such as to warrant the belief that they can easily take care of eight hundred voters apiece.

"The Express" this morning says that Frank L. Bapst, chairman of the Democratic General Committee, has reconsidered his determination to retire as head of the Democratic organization, and not only is a candidate for re-election, but as matters look now there will be little, if any, opposition to him.

A RUSH TO CAPE NOME EXPECTED.

THE POSTMASTER THERE SEEKING INCREASED FACILITIES.

Washington, Nov. 18.—Postmaster Wright, of Cape Nome, Alaska, is in the city in the interest of postal facilities to accommodate an expected rush to that district next spring. Bids have been asked for land service, probably by reindeer, between St. Michaels and Cape Nome, about three hundred and fifty miles, the present service being only by vessels, which do not touch there frequently. Mr. Wright says that four thousand people will winter in the thirty-five miles or so of coast that takes in the Cape Nome gold district and that fully thirty thousand will be there in the spring.

THE PRESIDENT'S VISITORS.

H. H. HANNA, COLONEL HENDERSON AND GENERAL LEE AMONG THE CALLERS AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Washington, Nov. 18.—H. H. Hanna, of the Indianapolis Monetary Convention, had an hour's consultation with the President to-day. Among the President's other callers were Representative Henderson, of Iowa; Representative Mercer, of Nebraska; General Fitzhugh Lee and General Wade. Colonel Henderson said he had simply called to pay his respects. General Lee talked over the situation in Cuba, especially in Matanzas Province, of which he is Military Governor, with the President. He will return to his post the latter part of this month.

TAX ON MORTGAGE TRANSFERS.

COMMISSIONER WILSON CONSTRUES THAT PORTION OF THE WAR REVENUE LAW.

Washington, Nov. 18.—Commissioner Wilson of the Internal Revenue Bureau has decided an important question relative to the taxability of transfers of mortgages, both chattel and real estate. The question came upon a recent decision by Judge Woolson, of the United States District Court, at Keokuk, Iowa, who refused to allow a mortgage to be offered in evidence because it was not stamped as a transfer. It appears that the mortgage was given to secure the payment of a note, which passed by indorsement through several hands. Judge Woolson declined to allow the mortgage to be introduced in evidence on the ground that it had not been stamped for each transfer.

Commissioner Wilson does not agree with Judge Woolson, and takes the view that if the mortgage was stamped when first given it is not subject to the stamp tax, as these transfers were simply implied and not expressed. He rules that Congress intended only to tax the express assignments and transfers of mortgages, and not those that were merely implied.

HONORS FOR WAR REGIMENTS.

ORGANIZATIONS WHICH MAY CARRY RINGS DENOTING SERVICE.

Albany, Nov. 18.—In accordance with General Orders No. 16, recently issued from National Guard headquarters, which provides that service in which organizations have borne a meritorious part may be engraved upon silver rings, fastened on the lances of the colors, another order was issued today designating those organizations that are entitled to carry one or more rings. They are as follows:

Squadron A and Troop C, one ring: "Spanish-American War, 1898"; and a second ring: "Porto Rico, 1898."

First Regiment and 10th Battalion, one ring: "Spanish-American War, 1898"; and a second ring: "Hawaii, 1898."

Eighth, 9th, 13th, 14th, 22d, 65th and 69th regiments, and the 1st, 2d, 3d and 4th battalions, one ring: "Spanish-American War, 1898."

Twelfth Regiment, one ring: "Spanish-American War, 1898"; and a second ring: "Cuba, 1899."

Forty-seventh Regiment, one ring: "Spanish-American War, 1898"; and a second ring: "Porto Rico, 1898-'99."

Seventy-first Regiment, four rings, as follows: "Spanish-American War, 1898"; "Las Guasimas, Santiago de Cuba, June 24, 1898"; "San Juan, Santiago de Cuba, July 1 to 18, 1898," and "Santiago de Cuba, June, July and August, 1898."

First Naval Battalion, five rings, as follows: "Spanish-American War, 1898"; "Santiago de Cuba, June 6, 1898"; "Cienfuegos, June 12, 1898"; "Casilda Harbor, June 20, 1898," and "Guantanamo, June 7, 1898."

Second Naval Battalion, one ring: "Spanish-American War, 1898"; and a second ring: "Havana, August 11, 1898."

The foregoing service designations will also be placed on the records of the regiments, battalions, troops, separate companies and divisions which entered the United States service in the Spanish-American War.

BISHOP WIGGER GOES ABROAD.

HE SAILS FOR ROME AND THE HOLY LAND IN THE FUERST BISMARCK.

Bishop William M. Wigger, of Newark, sailed yesterday for Naples in the steamship Fürst Bismarck, of the Hamburg-American Line. He was accompanied by the Rev. L. C. M. Carroll, rector of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, on Ocean-ave., Jersey City.

A large number of clergymen, including Bishop McFaul, of Trenton; the Rev. Father Stafford, president of Seton Hall College; the Rev. Father Brown, vice-president of Seton Hall College; the Rev. Father Charles J. Kelly, of the Church of Our Lady of Grace, Hoboken; the Rev. Father McCormick, of St. John's Church, Newark; the Rev. Father Sheehan, of the Church of the Sacred Heart, Newark; the Rev. Father Callahan, of East Orange, and other well known clergymen gathered on the pier and wished the Bishop a pleasant voyage.

The Fürst Bismarck will touch at Naples, where the Bishop will land and go to Rome to have an audience with Pope Leo XIII. He will then go to Genoa, where he was graduated for the priesthood, and later will visit the Holy Land. On Christmas Eve Bishop Wigger will celebrate mass at Bethlehem on the spot marking the birthplace of Christ. From the Holy Land the Bishop will visit Cairo, where he will remain two months, and will then go to Algiers. He expects to return home in the latter part of April. During Bishop Wigger's absence Vicar General O'Connor will be the Acting Bishop of the diocese.

ALIMONY FOR MRS. W. V. KING.

Mrs. Belle F. King, the wife of William V. King, the superintendent of the Cotton Exchange, yesterday received an award of $750 counsel fee and $75 a month alimony from Justice Scott, in the Supreme Court, pending the trial of the action brought against her by her husband for an absolute divorce. Justice Scott also allowed to Mrs. King $200 arrears of alimony and permission to apply for an additional counsel fee should the circumstances attending the defence of the suit require it.

Mrs. King lives at No. 101 West Eighty-eighth-st., with her two daughters, Ruth and Helen. Mr. King pays $40 a month to her for the support of Ruth and $45 a month for Helen's maintenance.

Mr. King a year ago brought an action against his wife for a separation on the ground of incompatability of temper and desertion on her part. Mrs. King had been in Paris, France, for twelve months at the time, and the summons and complaint were served on her by publication. When the case was called before Justice Truax last February Miss Ruth King appeared in court and besought the Judge not to hear the case, as her mother knew nothing about it. Justice Truax examined Miss King as to the service of the papers in the case and adjourned the trial for a month in order that Mrs. King might be communicated with, as Mr. King acknowledged that he had frequently written to his daughter when in Paris.

Mrs. King returned immediately on learning of her husband's action, and her two daughters went to live with her. Mr. King then brought his action for absolute divorce.

FLECHTER HOPES FOR A NEW TRIAL.

Victor S. Flechter is still fighting the charge of having received a violin knowing it to have been stolen. Judge Bartlett has granted a certificate of "reasonable doubt," upon which Mr. Flechter can and will now apply to the Court of Appeals. The Court of General Sessions convicted him, and the Appellate Division upheld the conviction, but the Bench was not unanimous in its decision, Justices Barrett and Van Brunt dissenting. Mr. Flechter's friends express a lively hope that the Court of Appeals will grant a new trial, in which case, they say, he has new evidence enough to acquit him.

TEACHERS' PAYROLLS NOT YET RECEIVED.

Controller Coler said yesterday that the payrolls of teachers for Manhattan and The Bronx had not been received at the Finance Department. He expected them in a day or two. The payrolls for the Borough of Brooklyn had been approved and returned. These payrolls have been made up on the basis of the old salaries, with a qualifying clause in the receipt to the effect that the teachers were not prejudiced against receiving the increased salaries if the courts held they were entitled to them.

The payrolls for Manhattan and The Bronx teachers will be made out in conformity with the plan agreed on a few days ago.

ATTACHMENT AGAINST IVAN FOX.

The Sheriff has received an attachment against Ivan Fox, who did business under the style of the Fox Optical Company, at No. 41 East Forty-second-st., for $424. It was obtained on the ground that Mr. Fox lives at Lansdowne, Penn. When the Sheriff went to the store to serve the papers he was informed that Mr. Fox had sold the business on Wednesday.

ELECTION FRAUD CASES.

FOUR ADDITIONAL DEPUTIES APPOINTED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Albany, Nov. 18 (Special).—Republican leaders here believe that Governor Roosevelt will not come to any decision, favorable or unfavorable, in regard to the State Police bill until after the end of the approaching trials for election offences in New-York. The evidence given at these trials will throw considerable light upon the character of the police administration in New-York City.

Attorney General Davies to-day appointed four additional deputies to try the New-York City election fraud cases. The chief of these deputies is Watson M. Rogers, a leading criminal lawyer of Watertown. He will take up the colonization cases, which have been in charge of John P. Coyne, First Deputy Attorney General. Mr. Rogers appeared before the Attorney General to-day and qualified for his new position, and remained in consultation with Mr. Coyne most of the day, going over the work that has been done and familiarizing himself as far as possible with the cases.

Deputy Attorney General Hedges, of New-York City, is expected to continue his work in connection with the cases, but Mr. Coyne will return to his regular work in the Department. The other new deputies are Charles W. Zaring, John S. Sheppard, jr., and John Hammond, all lawyers, of New-York City.

It is believed that Mr. Rogers will follow up the evidence regarding the colonization of voters, and Deputy Attorney General Hedges and his three assistants will conduct the investigation of fraudulent registration and fraudulent voting.

PENROSE TO ACT FOR QUAY.

HE WILL REPRESENT PENNSYLVANIA ON THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE—PHILADELPHIA AND THE CONVENTION.

Philadelphia, Nov. 18 (Special).—Colonel M. S. Quay, the representative of Pennsylvania on the National Republican Committee, has sent a proxy to Senator Penrose to act in his place at the meeting on December 15 at Washington. Senator Penrose has accepted the duty, and unless Colonel Quay should wish to resume his place on the committee after being seated by the Senate, Senator Penrose will act for Pennsylvania in all matters connected with the fixing of the time and place for holding the National Convention and other preliminaries connected with the campaign of 1900.

In referring to the incipient movements respecting the holding of the National Convention in Philadelphia, Senator Penrose said:

There is quite a boom in that direction, but all such matters naturally resolve themselves into a question of money. To finance a National convention in these days will require a large sum. Other cities are at work actively. I have been receiving letters on the subject, but at present I can only answer them in one way. Of course if the Philadelphia movement should take such shape that there might be a fair prospect of winning, I shall use every effort to secure the support of the committee. If it does not take a reasonably formidable shape I should discourage the attempt. I am entirely uncommitted, and shall continue so until Philadelphia decides whether to go ahead.

The convention of 1872 was held in the Academy of Music. The Union League, being near by, afforded facilities for conferences and entertaining. It was from all accounts a successful affair. President Grant was renominated and re-elected overwhelmingly. Philadelphia has better facilities now. The Auditorium of the Exposition building for the convention and the pavilions for the lobby and visitors would be admirable.

The selection of men for National delegates will occupy time. It is the wish of about all Pennsylvania that I have had anything to do with to send a delegation favorable to the renomination of William McKinley, and I have no doubt a solid delegation will be there for that purpose.

Senator Penrose is in daily conference with the party leaders throughout the State arranging for the next year's convention and campaign. He will have some satisfactory information to communicate to the President when he sees him next week.

PUBLIC BUSINESS TO BE DONE IN PUBLIC.

BALTIMORE'S REFORM MAYOR WANTS OPEN SESSIONS OF ALL CITY BOARDS—BILL FOR FREE CIGARS HELD UP.

Baltimore, Nov. 18 (Special).—Mayor Hayes today ordered that hereafter all the city business shall be open to public scrutiny. There are to be no more secret sessions of the public boards and municipal commissions. "To my way of thinking," says the new reform Mayor, "publicity will cure many municipal evils. If the representatives of the press will keep a close watch on all departments and faithfully report all that is done, it will be impossible for any jobs to be put through. The rule applies not only to boards, but to all departments. Let the public, through the newspapers, keep a close watch on the actions of all public officials, and there will be little cause for even suspecting any of them of dishonesty."

There were several reasons why the Mayor issued this order. He was informed particularly that the Water Board and the Park Commission transacted all their business behind closed doors. The members claimed that these boards were separate organizations from the city proper. Mayor Hayes has decided otherwise, and has declared that everything they do should be published for the information of taxpayers.

The new City Controller has held up a bill for $80 for cigars for members of the Water Board. One box is purchased before each meeting, and such as are not used then the members take home with them. Samuel T. Addison, a member of the Board, said to-day in reference to the matter: "It is a small piece of business. The members of the Board receive no compensation for their services or time. They give up several hours every week to the city, and the only return they get is a free smoke. The cigars have been a perquisite of the members of the Board for years, and there does not appear to be any good reason at present for discontinuing this custom." Mayor Hayes says the Controller has done right.

N. H. SWAYNE ON OHIO POLITICS.

N. H. Swayne, of Toledo, banker, lawyer and manufacturer, and a member of the Ohio Republican State Committee, is at the Cambridge for a few days. He is a brother of General Wager Swayne, of New-York, and a prosperous Ohioan. Speaking of Ohio politics last night he said:

Judge Nash got his large plurality because he is the kind of a Republican that we are proud of in the Buckeye State. He does not owe his victory to politicians or intrigue of any sort. He is a broad gauge, brilliant, conscientious Republican, and thousands of Democrats realized it when they went to the polls. He got the votes of a large number of Sound Money Democrats. We shall give the Republican candidate for President, whether it is President McKinley or some one else, a much larger plurality in Ohio next fall than Judge Nash received this year. Mayor Jones of Toledo is a very estimable man in many respects, but with our present good times the hard headed workmen of Ohio are not disposed to try any experiments with the wage question. They want a long spell of prosperity so that they can pay off any debts they may have contracted in times of adversity and get something ahead for a rainy day. That is what they are doing at the present time—making money, and they cannot be sidetracked by any calamity howling from Bryan, or by the advocacy of economic experiments by Mayor Jones, good fellow though he is. Jones may run for Congress next fall. If he does he will be beaten, and a twice defeated candidate is not in good shape to lead a successful reform movement. Mr. McLean, the Democratic candidate, never had a chance to win. We thought at one time that Jones had a fighting chance, and at first he gave us a good scare, but hard work soon got us in good fighting trim and insured the election of our candidate. Judge Nash will, I am sure, give us a good, safe administration, and he will be his own master in the Governor's chair. To even suggest that he will not is almost to insult one of the most admirable men the State has produced.

MEETING OF KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

Boston, Nov. 18.—The Knights of Labor continued their deliberations in Faneuil Hall to-day. An hour of the session was devoted to memorial services for Andrew D. Best, J. McFarland and Henry Gruber, members of the Assembly who died this year.

The remainder of the session was taken up with a hearing on a grievance presented by District Assembly No. 3 against the brewers' syndicate of Pittsburg. It is alleged that the contract providing that all brewery workers controlled by the syndicate must be Knights of Labor, and that a certain scale of hours and wages must govern them for five years, had been violated. The contract was signed by the officers of the Brewery Association and those of District Assembly No. 3 and Local Assembly No. 82.

The district assembly alleges that the American Federation of Labor had induced some of the members to join the organization, and that as these men were still employed by those who had made the contract with the Knights of Labor the contract had been violated. An extended discussion ensued.

WEST SHORE'S WINTER SCHEDULE.

The West Shore Railroad will adopt its usual winter schedule to-day. Both the east and west bound through and local service will be greatly improved by this schedule. Several changes in the Haverstraw local service have been made, and the Continental Limited, the Chicago and St. Louis Limited and Fast National Limited remain in service. The starting time of the Chicago and St. Louis Limited has been changed to 6:15 p. m., and that of the other trains will be the same as under the previous schedule. The Continental Limited westbound will arrive in Chicago hereafter at 2:40 p. m., and the Continental Limited eastbound will arrive in New-York at 4 p. m.

COL. COLE'S OUTBURST.

HE FORGETS THE DIGNITY OF HIS OFFICIAL POSITION.

LIVELY SCENE AT THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S HEARING OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST MR. ROSSITER.

Colonel Ashley W. Cole lost his temper completely at a meeting of the State Railroad Commissioners in this city yesterday and gave an exhibition of bad language and undignified conduct which was felt by most of those present to be positively disgraceful for any State officer to indulge in. The Commissioners had met in the Fifth Avenue Hotel to hear complaints against the methods of the Manhattan Railway in The Bronx and against the new transfer system of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company, and all the Commissioners were on hand. Colonel Cole presided.

More than two hundred Brooklynites were crowded into the parlor. Andrew F. Van Thun, jr., and Walter S. Durock, counsel, were there to present the grievances of the complainants, who are residents of Corona, Greenpoint, Bay Ridge, Fort Hamilton, Dyker Heights, Bath Beach, Bensonhurst and Borough Park. President Rossiter, with his counsel, Charles A. Colin, appeared for the Borough Heights Railway Company, of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit system. Assistant Corporation Counsel Luke D. Stapleton attended by direction of the Municipal Assembly, but he did not announce for what purpose. Six separate complaints were filed, one each from citizens' committees of the section alleging grievances.

THE TROUBLE BEGINS.

Before opening the hearing Colonel Cole took up a newspaper clipping and read from a report of a meeting held in South Brooklyn. In that report Senator Coffey is said to have referred to the Railroad Commissioners as "owned body and soul by the railroad companies."

Colonel Cole was evidently indignant. "I have known Senator Coffey for twenty years," he said, "and I never knew him to have a public voice."

Here Harry A. Hanbury, of the Eighth Ward, interrupted. "You have no right to refer to Senator Coffey in such words!" he cried. "I am in a position to say that Senator Coffey used no such words. Why don't you question him before you characterize him publicly?"

"I will suffer no reflection," shouted Colonel Cole, rising in his seat, "upon myself or my colleagues. I care no more for Mr. Rossiter than for the boy who waits on that window; nor do I care for Mr. Vanderbilt or any railway president or company."

"We are glad to hear that," retorted Mr. Hanbury, "as it leads us to suppose that we may expect fair treatment here."

"You will obtain fair treatment here," replied the chairman.

"I object to your characterization of Senator Coffey," said James P. Farrell, "and call upon you to withdraw your words. Mr. Coffey will be here within twenty minutes."

"I do withdraw them," said Colonel Cole, "until Senator Coffey appears. Let the matter continue.

"LOAFER!" ROARS COLE.

The regular proceedings were then begun and continued up to a point where ex-Senator W. H. Reynolds, a large owner of Borough Park property, volunteered a statement and was sworn, at the generally expressed desire of the audience. He began his address with an anecdote of Rufus Choate and Daniel Webster, and was interrupted with cries of "Get down to facts; no faking!"

Colonel Cole called for order, declaring that the hearing was not a town meeting, and Mr. Reynolds was allowed to continue.

He told of his real estate interests, and said he believed the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company was doing its best for the general interest of the community, and asked the crowd not to be hasty in believing all it heard. He said, for his own part, he believed it would be advantageous if the company could run its surface cars on the elevated structure and over the Bridge without a change.

"And right uptown in Manhattan," added Colonel Cole with a smile.

"I object to that statement," shouted Mr. Hanbury. "I object to the partiality shown by the chairman of this Commission. You have no right to make any such remark."

The room was in an uproar in a moment.

Colonel Cole got red in the face.

"You dirty loafer," he roared, rising in his seat.

"I take your remark as a compliment," said Mr. Hanbury, "and I believe that the remarks attributed to Senator Coffey are borne out by your bearing and statement."

Colonel Cole could hardly speak, his anger was so great.

"You loafer," he gasped, reaching half way across the table.

A ROWDY MEETING.

Commissioner Dunn rapped for order, and after half a dozen men had vainly attempted to make themselves heard, succeeded in obtaining silence.

It was a rowdy meeting all through. No speaker got an opportunity to finish all he had to say without evoking cries of ridicule and receiving invitations to "Shut up!" and "Leave off making stump speeches!"

There appeared to be no end to the persons who desired to address the Commission, but at 5 o'clock Colonel Cole declared the hearing closed for the day, promising to hear all who had anything to say next Saturday. It was decided by general agreement to hold the hearing in the Brooklyn Borough Hall next Saturday at 10 a. m. Assistant Corporation Counsel Stapleton agreed to arrange with the Commissioner of Public Buildings for the loan of the hall.

Senator Coffey had not appeared by the time of the adjournment, much to the disappointment of part of the audience, which anticipated some fun when he met Colonel Cole.

STATEMENT FROM ROSSITER.

President Rossiter read a long statement, contrasting the railroad facilities in the complaining wards with the railroad facilities in other sections in the State of like population. It stated the readiness of the company to do all necessary for the good of the community, but insisted upon the right of the company to operate its lines to suit itself, so long as the conditions of the franchises under which it operates are complied with. Many of his statements were received with jeers.

Notices of complaint against the company were filed by George L. Allen, W. L. Durack, Theodore Witte, James P. Farrell, Harry A. Hanbury, Daniel Moynahan, M. S. Sloane and John Costello.

When Mr. Rossiter sat down Mr. Hanbury got the floor and submitted at great length the complaint of residents of the Eighth Ward of Brooklyn. He denied the right of the company to charge a double fare from those who refuse to climb the stairs to the elevated line and insist upon holding their seats in the surface cars. He denied the inference of Mr. Rossiter that the complaints were only from the Eighth, Thirtieth and Thirty-first wards, and declared that the Commissioners would be asked to hear representatives of at least 85 per cent of the total population of Kings County, one hundred or more from every ward.

COLE DEFINES HIS POSITION.

George A. Allin was the first witness called. Before he was asked any questions Colonel Cole requested that he be informed when Senator Coffey arrived. "If I have done him an injustice," he said, "I wish to say so. If he was correctly reported, I wish to denounce him and to say his statements are lies." Mr. Allin swore that without paying a second fare there is no way for a resident of the Thirty-first Ward to reach any part of Brooklyn, except that part on the line of the Fifth Avenue Elevated. Mr. Rossiter interrupted the witness to say that Mr. Allin's statement was incorrect, and that with the exception of the South Ferry every point formerly reached for five cents may be reached still for that fare.

The morning session was devoted to the Manhattan company. The Taxpayers' Alliance of The Bronx, which voices the complaints of the citizens of that section, was represented by Colonel J. A. Goulden, the president; W. W. Niles, counsel, and James L. Wells, of the North Side Board of Trade. For the railroad company, Alfred Skitt, general manager, and Julien T. Davies and A. G. Townsend, counsel, were in attendance. The Taxpayers' Alliance asks that the franchise and charter acquired by the Manhattan railroad from the old suburban road be declared void because of failure to comply with the conditions under which they were acquired. Mr. Davies opened the proceedings by demurring to the complaint. He read from Paragraph 6 of the complaint, which alleges that the time allowed under the franchise to construct the road has expired, and argued that under such conditions the Railroad Commissioners are without jurisdiction, and that the matter is one for the discretion of the Attorney General, but offered to proceed with the case at once if the opposition would admit that the Manhattan Elevated Railroad Company owns the franchises and has the legal right to build. Mr. Niles objected to the position taken by counsel. After a consultation with his colleagues Colonel Cole said the Board was disposed in such cases to try and settle disputes by mediation, and that for the present the Board had decided to hear the evidence.

MR. DAVIES'S ANSWER.

Mr. Davies claimed that all the company's charters and franchises are in full force, and that the company has good and sufficient reasons for the non-construction and operation of the railroad.

In a rather long brief which he read Mr. Niles rehearsed the history of the trouble and told of the efforts made to induce the Manhattan company to fulfil the contracts it assumed when it obtained the charter of the Suburban Rapid Transit Company. He submitted maps showing the routes to be constructed under that charter and also the three miles so far completed by the Manhattan Railroad Company. The failure of the company to construct the road Mr. Niles declared to be a great detriment to property in The Bronx, and he asked the Board to stop the dog-in-the-manger policy pursued by the company.

Colonel Goulden was the first witness called. He told of the many applications made to the Manhattan Railroad Company, of the promises made by the company and of the non-fulfilment of those promises. He said he had twenty-five interviews with George Gould, president of the Manhattan company, and that none of the promises made by Mr. Gould had been carried out. Colonel Goulden denied absolutely the truth of the statements in Mr. Davies's answer that the railroad company is enlarging its terminal at Bedford Park and is making preparations for extending existing lines. At 12:30 o'clock Colonel Cole stopped the examination. He asked counsel to fix a date for concluding the hearing. It was decided to adjourn until Friday next at 10 o'clock a. m.

ANOTHER TELEPHONE COMPANY.

THE UNIVERSAL, WITH A NEW SYSTEM, APPEARS—PLANS OF THE BIG SYNDICATE.

It was reported yesterday that interests identified with the new Telephone, Telegraph and Cable Company of America had secured control of the Telephone Contracting Company, which has a contract to enlarge the plant of the Hudson Telephone Company, in Jersey City, and that the latter corporation would soon be taken over by the Telephone, Telegraph and Cable Company of America.

It was announced yesterday that another independent company, to be known as the Universal Telephone Company, had entered the field of competition. The new company is said to have a capital of $5,000,000, and it is declared that none of the stock will be put on the market. The company says that it has a controlling interest in the system known as the Amsterdam, for which it is asserted only one wire is required, thus materially reducing the cost of construction.

FINE TRAINS TO WINTER RESORTS.

The Southern Railway announces for the winter season in its service to the winter resorts of Georgia, Florida, Cuba and California, operating from New-York, a fine vestibuled train every day in the year, with dining, library, observation and drawing room sleeping cars.

In addition to the through car service to Florida now in effect, the New-York and Florida Limited, between New-York and St. Augustine, one of the most elegantly appointed vestibuled trains ever built by the Pullman company, will resume service January 16, 1900, composed exclusively of dining, library, compartment, observation and drawing room sleeping cars New-York to St. Augustine. Also attached to the train is a Pullman drawing room sleeping car New-York to Tampa by way of Sanford and Winter Park, and to Aiken and Augusta.

A NEW MEMORIAL WINDOW.

To-day at the morning service at the Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church, One-hundred-and-twenty-ninth-st. and Seventh-ave., there will be unveiled a window to the memory of Mrs. Sarah E. Norman, who died on December 26, 1896. Mrs. Norman was a devoted Christian worker, and connected with every benevolent enterprise of that church, for she delighted in ministry to others, especially among the destitute and sorrowing. She was for many years president of the Ladies' Guild, and held other offices of honor and responsibility. The Rev. Dr. F. Mason North will deliver the principal address on the occasion, and the unveiling will be followed by a specially arranged order of service. Mrs. Norman was the wife of Colonel G. A. J. Norman, also a member of Calvary Church and president of its Board of Trustees.

MOZAMBIQUE CABLE REPAIRED.

The Commercial Cable Company yesterday announced that the Lourenco-Marques-Mozambique cable had been repaired, restoring communication with South Africa by the east route. It has been found necessary to suspend at Aden, as well as at Cape of Good Hope, the transmission of all dispatches in code or cipher, whether of foreign governments or private persons, to and from Zanzibar, Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, British East Africa, German East Africa, Mozambique, Delagoa Bay, Rhodesia, British Central Africa, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Cape Colony and Natal. Telegrams in plain language will be subject to censorship and at senders' risk.

PRODUCE EXCHANGE GRATUITY FUND.

The Law Committee of the New-York Produce Exchange has made a report to the trustees of the Gratuity Fund, the substance of which is that it is deemed advisable to take further legal counsel before recommending any change in the present system of assessment.

FRESH TRADE DEVELOPMENTS.

An extended report on the opportunity afforded for the California fruit packers to command the markets of Germany has been sent to Washington by the United States Consul General at Berlin. He mentions an instance of dishonesty practised by a San Francisco firm whose name on a package is usually regarded as a guarantee of good quality. The first box of this season's crop of dried apricots was opened in the Consul General's presence. On top the fruit was large, firm, transparent and of fine flavor. But at the bottom of the box it was irregular in shape, various in color and vastly inferior to the rest of the lot. The importer bitterly remarked, "If this is what we get from first class packers, what may we expect from the jobber who gathers up the miscellaneous product of small packers?" The Consul General declares that California fruit is selling abroad only on its own merits, and not because of any one's far sighted management, and if uniform quality and honesty are not sustained the market will be lost. He mentions hearing a charge that fruit left over from last year has been steamed, repacked and sold for fresh fruit. He recommends that dried fruit be put up in boxes containing either twelve and a half or twenty-five kilograms. The former plan is most in favor in Germany. A definite system of grading should be adopted, and then closely adhered to. Boxes should be lined with white paper and plainly labelled, so that the buyer can identify packer, grade and contents. Current prices are given in this report, which may be found in "Advance Sheets of Consular Reports" for November 17.

London advices received by "Bennett's Weekly" indicate that at the December and January sales of wool in that city a marked advance will be witnessed in prices for low grade and crossbred wools. Inasmuch as buyers of cloth made from fine wool are reluctant to pay the prices demanded, the manufacturers are thinking of using inferior wool. Hence, the call for inferior grades.

"The Engineering and Mining Journal" says that the output of gold in the Transvaal up to October 1, 1899, was a scant $70,000,000, and only $8,500,000 less than the yield for the whole of 1898. But the diminished production in South Africa will be more than made up in other countries.

"The Manufacturer" (Pittsburg) says that the production of pig iron this year in this country will realize the highest predictions that have been made. That periodical estimates the total at about 13,400,000 tons. The output in 1898 was 11,773,934 tons. "The Iron Trade Review" (Cleveland), which has been something of a bull, insists that, as the present consumption of pig is at the rate of fifteen million tons a year, and as the furnaces are able to keep only a margin of two and a half days' supply ahead of absolute exhaustion, the time for a weakening in prices is still distant.

North Carolina has 250 cotton mills, which is more than any other State in the country except Massachusetts. But South Carolina has fully as many spindles in operation—1,500,000.

So brisk is the demand for brown sheetings and drills for both domestic and export trade that deliveries cannot be secured before March, and some are now being promised as far ahead as July.

Some fault has been found with the comparatively new "American Society" rail, which is a heavy one, adapted to the severest traffic. In "The Railroad Gazette" last week a "railmaker" explained the trouble complained of. Inasmuch as car and engine wheels have been worn slightly by running over the narrower rail for years past, only that portion of the tire just beyond the groove will come in contact with the head of the new rail at first. Thus, an abnormal pressure falls upon a limited area, and the metal of the rail "flows" under it. This is only a temporary evil, and does not invalidate the main argument in favor of heavy rails. Mr. Dudley has shown that the substitution of 80 pound rails for 65 pound rails on the New-York Central makes the track enough stiffer to save between 75 and 100 horse power a mile in the operation of the Chicago Limited.

Recent tests were made in London with yellow pine lumber for house partitions, to ascertain the efficacy of fireproofing materials used on the wood. The severest test was the application of a flame producing a temperature of 900 degrees Fahrenheit for fifteen minutes. The wood was charred, but did not break into flame, nor even become incandescent.

Under the Spanish regime in Cuba the fire insur