STATE LABOR STATISTICS.

LARGELY REDUCED PERCENTAGE OF IDLENESS—BUILDING OPERATIONS IN THE CITIES.

Albany, Dec. 19.—The December quarterly bulletin of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, issued to-day, which covers the returns from the labor organizations of the State for July, August and September, shows a rapid increase of membership and a largely reduced percentage of idleness. There were 1,320 trades unions on September 30, 1899, as compared with 1,687 on the same day of 1898, and the membership increased from 171,067 to 209,120, which is the largest number yet recorded by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

During the quarter the number of members idle was 4,788, or 2.3 per cent of the membership, as compared with 9,734, or 5.7 per cent, in 1898, and 6.5 per cent in 1897. A still larger decrease was manifest in the number unemployed at the end of the quarter, the aggregate number being only 9,590, or 4.7 per cent of the membership, as compared with 10.3 per cent at the end of September in 1898, and 13.8 per cent at the end of September in 1897. Even so late as June 30 of the present year the percentage of idleness was 10.7. The diminished idleness is accompanied with increased earnings in most of the trades.

The statistics of building operations in four of the principal cities of the State for the third quarters of 1898 and 1899 do not present uniform results. While in New-York City and Rochester building operations have been more extensive this year than last, in Buffalo and Syracuse a slight falling off is exhibited. The estimated cost of projected buildings and alterations in New-York City in July, August and September of 1898 was $23,220,088, which increased in 1899 to $32,552,878. In Buffalo the comparison for the same months of 1898 and 1899 is respectively $1,148,960 and $1,111,666, a decrease of $37,324; in Rochester $404,508 and $423,405 respectively; in Syracuse $312,832 and $285,810.

The volume of immigration at the port of New-York remains larger than it was last year, although a diminution is exhibited as compared with the second quarter of the present year. In the third quarter of 1898 the number of arrivals was 43,717; in the second quarter of 1899, 102,783, and in the third quarter of 1899, 56,978. The largest contingent of immigrants still comes from Southern Italy, while the second place is held by the Hebrew race, and the third by the Irish.

The quarterly report of the Superintendent of the New-York State Free Employment Bureau shows an increase in the number of applications for work, of applications for help, and of situations secured, as compared with corresponding periods of 1898. For the present quarter 500 situations were secured, as against 460 for the corresponding quarter of last year.

BUSINESS TROUBLES.

HUGH BONNER'S FIRE PROTECTIVE COMPANY MAKES AN ASSIGNMENT.

The Greater New-York Fire Protective Company, of No. 127 West Thirty-seventh-st., has made an assignment to George S. Willis. It is a New-Jersey corporation, organized on June 23, 1898, with a capital stock of $50,000, to give notice to house-owners, merchants, etc., of fire on their property, and in case of accidents to individuals to let relatives know and to carry them to the places of accident. Hugh Bonner, ex-Chief of the Fire Department, became president of the company a few months ago. The assignment is attributed to too large expense in the administrative department, salaries being too large for the volume of business. The liabilities are not large, and by judicious cutting down of expenses, it is thought, the company could be profitably reorganized.

Daniel W. Blumenthal has been appointed receiver in supplementary proceedings for the Farmers' Butter and Egg Company, of No. 880 Amsterdam-ave., by Judge Schuchman, of the City Court, on the application of the Stamford Co-operative Creamery Company. The Sheriff received an execution against the company on Saturday.

PETITIONS IN BANKRUPTCY.

A petition in involuntary bankruptcy was filed yesterday against Bernard Traynor, dealer in dry-goods, at Amsterdam-ave. and Sixty-second-st., by the following creditors: Irving Olenick, $1,000; Euman Brothers, $667, and D. A. B. Gross & Brother, $21. They allege that he is insolvent, and has suffered thirteen creditors to obtain preference by judgments to the amount of $4,055, and the Sheriff is in possession of the stock. Judge Brown, of the United States District Court, appointed Charles M. Hough temporary receiver of the assets. It was stated that the stock of merchandise on hand is worth $20,000, and the liabilities are upward of $60,000.

Schedules of Holland Emslie & Son, builders, of Cornwall, against whom a petition in bankruptcy was filed here on May 29, show liabilities of $25,686, of which $1,948 are wages to twenty-three employes, and nominal assets of $37,780, consisting of outstanding accounts, $32,958; stock on hand, $1,725, and cash, $3,097, all in the hands of an assignee. The firm made an assignment on April 29.

NEW TRUST COMPANY FORMING.

Plans are well under way for the new Sterling Trust Company. The Organizing Committee consists of A. K. Sloan, George E. Fahys, No. 54 Maiden Lane, and John Blair, of Blair & Rudd, lawyers, of No. 32 Liberty-st. Mr. Blair is also counsel. Charles M. Englis, president of the Wallabout Bank, Brooklyn, will be the president. The capital is to be $750,000. It is proposed to erect a fifteen story office building for the company's headquarters near Maiden Lane and Nassau-st. The plan includes a safe deposit company under the trust company's control.

HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS.

Niagara Falls excursions are announced by the Erie Railroad Company at $8 for the round trip as follows: Account Christmas excursion, tickets good going December 23 and 24, returning leaving Niagara Falls on or before Tuesday, December 26, 1899; account New Year's excursion, tickets good going December 30 and 31, 1899, returning on or before January 2, 1900.

BUFFALO GRAIN RECEIPTS DECREASE.

Buffalo, Dec. 19.—Practically all of the grain bound down the lake for this port this season has arrived, and the total receipts, when compared with last year, show a big falling off. This season's receipts of grain were 146,685,467 bushels, as against 217,785,511 bushels last year, a decrease of over 71,000,000 bushels. The falling off is attributed to the dock troubles early in the year, the keen competition of the railroads and the greater profits in carrying ore.

DEATHS FROM PNEUMONIA INCREASING.

How greatly the recent unseasonable and changeable weather has afflicted New-Yorkers is shown by the statistics of the Health Board. For the week ending December 9 there were 234 deaths from pneumonia in this city, as opposed to 188 for the corresponding period of 1898. For the week ending last Saturday there were 244 deaths from pneumonia, as opposed to 235 for the week ending December 17 of last year.

CHARTER FOR COLONIAL SUGAR COMPANY.

Dover, Del., Dec. 19.—The Colonial Sugar Refining Company, the alleged rival of the American Sugar Refining Company, was incorporated here to-day; capital, $100,000, with the privilege of increasing it to $100,000,000. The company is chartered to engage in the production of sugar in Cuba, Hawaii and Porto Rico. The refining is to be done by special process on the plantations.

UNITED VERDE COPPER COMPANY'S SALE.

The public auction of the United Verde Copper Company's mines, works and railroad at Jerome, Ariz., which it was announced some time ago would be held yesterday at the New-York Real Estate Salesroom, No. 111 Broadway, was postponed for one week. Henry G. Atwater, of Atwater & Cruikshank, attorneys for the company, said yesterday that the lawyers would present their briefs to Judge Gildersleeve to-day, and that the sale is scheduled for December 26.

BAD FEEDING

'Tis the one great cause of rickets. The food is deficient in fat for the blood, and in mineral matter for the bones. Such children have profuse sweating of the head and great restlessness during sleep. The ideal remedy is Scott's Emulsion with hypophosphites of lime and soda. Here is fat to make the blood rich, and mineral matter to make the bones firm and strong.

At all druggists; 50c. and $1.00.
SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, New York.

COLER'S TUNNELS ATTACKED.

J. RUFUS TERRY SENDS CIRCULAR LETTERS TO THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OPPOSING THE SCHEME.

When the members of the Board of Aldermen took their seats at the meeting yesterday afternoon there was on the desk of each a circular letter signed by J. Rufus Terry, attacking the Controller for the stand he took in the matter of the Blackwell's Island bridge. The circular charges Controller Coler with making a malignant attack on the Borough of Queens, broadly misstating facts and assailing the motives of the citizens of that borough. The Controller is accused of attempting to make trouble between the South Brooklyn district and the Borough of Queens.

The statement of the Controller that the proposed Blackwell's Island Bridge would cost $13,000,000 is disputed, and the cost placed by Mr. Terry at two-thirds of that sum. Mr. Terry takes the language of the Controller to mean that all the population must be located before the bridge is built. This is branded as absurd, and the existing Brooklyn Bridge is quoted as an example of the opposite and the cause of adding millions to the assessed valuation of Brooklyn. The circular further declares that the Long Island Railroad is opposed to the new bridge being built by the city, and would rather built it itself.

Mr. Coler is accused of having a vision not long ago of a great park at Coney Island to cost millions of dollars, in which his friends were interested, and it is asked in the letter if his visions of tunnel structures are of like character and induced by like motives.

The clerk had not gone far in reading Mr. Terry's communication when the reading was dispensed with.

Alfred R. Conkling, counsel for property owners interested in the proposed Blackwell's Island bridge, had a written request for a rehearing in the Blackwell's Island bridge matter. It was filed with the papers in the case.

At the meeting of the Council yesterday the resolution to appropriate $50,000 for preliminary surveys for the tunnel proposed by Controller Coler between Island, was offered, but on Councilman Cassidy, of Queens, objecting to its immediate consideration it went over.

Mayor Van Wyck yesterday signed an ordinance of the Municipal Assembly authorizing Commissioner Shea to make the necessary contracts for borings, soundings and examinations for the two new bridges across the East River. The proposition to appropriate $1,000,000 each for these bridges is now before the Municipal Assembly, and the War Department is considering the question of approving the plans.

TEMPORARY RECEIVER FOR A BANK.

APPOINTMENT TO BE MADE IN THE CASE OF THE FRANKLIN NATIONAL.

Within the next two days Judge Lacombe of the United States Circuit Court will appoint a receiver to take charge of the affairs of the Franklin National Bank until the annual meeting of the stockholders, which is to be held in a few weeks, and then final action concerning the future of the institution can be decided on. Such is the decision which he arrived at yesterday regarding the motion made in behalf of C. H. Taintor and other stockholders against President James and the officers of the bank and also against the Liquidating Committee. Judge Lacombe in his opinion says:

The quarrels and animosities of the directors of the defendant bank have plunged its affairs into such confusion that it is highly probable that the stockholders who have not participated in these quarrels may suffer by a waste of the assets of the bank. The intervention, at least, of some temporary custodian who may reduce to his own possession the assets held by the warring factions and conserve them for proper disposition upon liquidation seems to be imperative. The Court will therefore appoint a temporary receiver, as prayed for on the motion, with power and instructions to reduce all assets to his possession, and to proceed promptly with the collection of all choses in action. He will hold all assets thus reduced to possession subject to the further order of the Court, and will give a bond of $10,000 for the faithful execution of his trust. The annual election of directors will be held some time within a month. The vote cast then will determine what may be the wishes of the stockholders.

A MURDER, DR. O'HANLON THINKS.

HE SAYS THAT THE HEADLESS BODY SHOWS PROBABLE TRACES OF FOUL PLAY.

Dr. Philip O'Hanlon, of the Coroner's office, was mysterious yesterday afternoon after he had performed an autopsy on the headless body found in the East River off Rutgers-st. on Monday.

Dr. O'Hanlon was reticent about the matter, but he disclosed enough to indicate that he believed a murder had probably been committed. He said that the body had been in the water a long time, and that the hands were thrown back, and displayed evidences of distension and force. The head, he said, had been severed between the fourth and fifth cervical vertebræ, and there were fine serrations, as if the decapitation had been done with a fine tooth saw or a knife. To him the decapitation seemed to have been done before the body was thrown into the water. Dr. O'Hanlon said that he and Professor Ferguson would make a microscopical examination of the body.

CONVICTED OF MURDER, SECOND DEGREE.

The testimony of the two chief witnesses of the killing of Francis Edward Slater on October 26 was taken yesterday in the trial of Martin Regan for murder in the first degree in the Court of General Sessions. Slater was shot dead at Avenue A and Twenty-third-st. at 1 o'clock in the morning. The men were brothers-in-law. Regan is an ex-convict, having served a term for stabbing a man.

Regan was convicted of murder in the second degree and remanded for sentence. The conviction means life imprisonment.

ASSIGNMENT OF THE VOGELER COMPANY.

Baltimore, Dec. 19.—Christian Devries and Mrs. Minnie A. Devries, his wife, filed a joint deed of trust this morning, conveying all their property, real and personal, to Henry S. Dulaney, trustee, to be by him converted into cash and used in the liquidation of the debts of the Vogeler Company, of which Mr. Devries is president. Mr. Dulaney filed a bond for $300,000, which would indicate that the assets are $150,000. Of this, $75,000 is in realty and $75,000 is in personal property. The liabilities of the concern are not definitely known, but are estimated at between $175,000 and $200,000. C. Morton Stewart was chosen president of the National Bank of Baltimore to-day, to fill out the unexpired term of Mr. Devries, resigned. The permanent president will be chosen at the annual election in January.

CORR'S BAIL PLACED AT $10,000.

Nicholas Corr, bookkeeper, of No. 115 West Sixty-second-st., jointly indicted with G. Percival Stewart, of No. 207 East Eightieth-st., and Daniel J. Pierce, of No. 687 Quincy-st., Brooklyn, of the Financial Agency Company, of No. 145 Nassau-st., on a charge of grand larceny, pleaded not guilty yesterday in General Sessions, and he was held in $10,000 bail.

The indictment was found on the complaint of Carl Preiss, who alleged that on April 14 of this year he went to the Financial Agency to get a hotel business. He said he paid $115, but did not get the business. There are five defendants in all.

TRIAL OF WILLIAM NEUFELDT BEGUN.

The case of William Neufeldt, charged with murder in the first degree, was called by Justice Fursman, in the Criminal Term of the Supreme Court, yesterday afternoon. A special panel of 150 men has been summoned, from which to select a jury to try the case. William F. Howe represents the defendant, and Assistant District Attorney McIntyre the prosecution. Six jurors were secured when the court adjourned.

Neufeldt is charged with having killed Mrs. Annie Kronman, of No. 266 West Thirty-fifth-st., on August 7 last.

CHURCH TO BE REMODELLED.

The Board of Trustees of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, Madison-ave. and Seventy-third-st., has submitted plans for remodelling the church and the Sunday school and meeting room building adjoining. The estimated cost of the improvements is $75,000. A story is to be added to the school building and the front wall will be rebuilt to correspond with the architecture of the church. In the church a gallery will be constructed around the three sides, a new organ loft and vestibule will be added and the towers will be reconstructed. The Seventy-third-st. entrance will be taken out and stained glass windows substituted. James E. Ware & Son are the architects.

EAST SIDE PRECINCTS STIRRED UP.

The Police Commissioners have directed an investigation to be instituted into the alleged unlawful conditions on the East Side. It was learned yesterday afternoon that at the meeting of the Board held on Monday resolutions were adopted directing an investigation into the condition of the Twelfth and Fifteenth precincts. The Twelfth Precinct is the Eldridge-st. station, and the Fifteenth is the Fifth-st. station.

The Board adopted a special resolution directing an investigation to be made of the complaint of a gambling place at No. 9 Second-ave.

Both resolutions were offered by Commissioner Abell.

BROOKLYN NEWS.

BURGLARS PLY THEIR TRADE.

HOUSES ARE RANSACKED AND ASSAULTS COMMITTED ON THE STREETS—THE POLICE PROFESS IGNORANCE.

Highwaymen, burglars, thieves and other law breakers are merrily plying their trade in Brooklyn just at the present time. It may be that they have been spurred to activity by the advent of Christmas, as it has not been proved that these people are averse to making themselves a present now and then. The police are bending all their energies toward suppressing the facts about this carnival of crime. It is alleged that they are also endeavoring to suppress the criminals, although about this they refuse to speak.

On Monday morning the house of Dr. Francis H. Stuart, at No. 123 Joralemon-st., on the Heights, was visited by some of the "gentlemen of the profession." The story leaked out yesterday. Although the thieves evidently made themselves at home for several hours, they carried away only a few plated nut picks. This does not include, however, a choice assortment of sardines, fruit and other delicacies upon which they feasted. Opened bottles of mineral water in the cellar and articles which were disarranged on the second floor showed that the visitors had made a thorough inspection of the premises. Papers and pieces of apparatus were scattered about the doctor's office, and an effort had been made to open the safe. So far as could be learned, however, the burglars took nothing but the nut picks, doubtless because they found nothing which they considered valuable enough.

The police would not admit any knowledge of the entrance to Dr. Stuart's house. Neither will they admit a number of robberies in the Stuyvesant-ave. section.

Late on Monday night highwaymen at Washington and Main sts., knocked down Walter W. Arundale, the foreman of Gair's paper box factory, and stole his gold watch, valued at $75. William Gibbons, twenty-three years old, of No. 62 Front-st., and Neil Gillespie, twenty-one years old, of No. 66 Washington-st., were arrested and held in the Adams-st. police court yesterday morning.

Henry Balke, of No. 260 Nostrand-ave., the conductor of a car on the Flatbush-ave. line, declares that two highwaymen held him up in his car at midnight on Monday and relieved him of the money he had collected during the evening. The police make fun of the story.

A sergeant in the Flatbush police station said yesterday: "There is no proof of a burglary. Mr. Balke has told two or three different stories as to the location."

A burglar visited a house at Carroll-st. and Utica-ave., on Monday morning, and was shot by a plucky servant girl. There was a series of burglaries committed in the neighborhood of State and Bond sts. several days ago, and thus it goes.

OBITUARY.

ABNER D. THURBER.

The funeral of Abner D. Thurber, for many years a member of the old firm of Thurber, Whyland & Co., Manhattan, who died on Monday at his home, No. 49 Sidney Place, will be held this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Mr. Thurber was born in Delhi, N. Y., in 1839. He had lived in Brooklyn for twenty-five years. He was one of three brothers who controlled the firm of Thurber, Whyland & Co., afterward the American Grocery Company. He retired several years ago. A widow and four children survive him.

AGAINST UNITING POSTOFFICES.

WASHINGTON AUTHORITIES DO NOT FAVOR THE SCHEME, SAYS MR. WILSON.

"I am satisfied that the department at Washington has no intention of consolidating the Manhattan and Brooklyn postoffices," said Postmaster Wilson yesterday. He had just returned from a conference in Washington. "I do not believe the bill drawn for that purpose will amount to anything," he continued. "Having talked with the postoffice officials, I think I am justified in saying that they believe the sentiment of Brooklyn to be decidedly against the measure, and that it would not be of benefit, economically or otherwise, to put the bill into effect, if it should pass.

"Assistant Postmaster Heath is not in favor of the proposition, and I can find no one who really is."

ORDER OF ARREST VACATED.

JUSTICE MAREAN GRANTS THE MOTION IN THE CASE AGAINST COMMISSIONER SCHROEDER.

Justice Isaiah T. Marean, in the Supreme Court, yesterday afternoon vacated the order of arrest against Quarantine Commissioner Frederick W. Schroeder, which had been obtained by Alice M. Drew, in her suit against him to recover $30,000 for the alleged conversion of mining stock.

On Monday the case was before Justice Gaynor, when Colonel A. S. Bacon, the counsel for Commissioner Schroeder, declared that 200 shares of the stock of the company in question stood on the books in Justice Gaynor's name. This surprised the Justice, who said he had never bought any stock. He said he would investigate. No explanation was made yesterday, but Justice Gaynor sent the case to Justice Marean.

WAR VETERANS TO MEET.

The annual meeting of the Brooklyn War Veterans and Sons' Association will be held to-night in the Borough Hall. Officers will be elected. The following are expected to be present and speak: Register-elect James R. Howe, Congressman Bertram T. Clayton, William Walton, Deputy Commissioner of Buildings, Lighting and Supplies, and Albert D. Shaw, Commander in Chief of the New-York State Department, G. A. R.

PETITIONS IN BANKRUPTCY.

Maurice M. Egan filed a petition as a voluntary bankrupt yesterday morning with the clerk of the United States District Court. Mr. Egan is a salesman and lives at No. 83 Second Place. His liabilities are $7,874 21, of which $500 is a debt to a secured creditor. He places his assets at $250.

A second petitioner was Emerson W. Perry. He names twenty-seven unsecured creditors, with claims aggregating $85,956 61, and eleven whose claims are unknown. He says that his only assets are his clothes.

GETS DAMAGES FOR INJURIES.

A verdict for $1,500 in favor of Mrs. Eugenie Anderson, of No. 584 Carroll-st., was awarded yesterday by a jury in the Supreme Court, Justice Jenks presiding. The defendant was the Nassau Railroad. Mrs. Anderson had brought suit for $5,000 for injuries sustained by her in a collision between two of the company's cars at Thirty-ninth-st. and Fifth-ave. on June 17, 1898.

FOUND FLOATING IN THE BAY.

The body of a man was found late yesterday afternoon floating in the waters of the Bay at the foot of Fifty-second-st. It was taken to the Forty-third-st. station, and on investigation it was found that the man had sustained a bruise over one eye which might have been the result of violence.

The body was dressed in new clothes, a black cheviot coat, lace shoes, white shirt, with turn-down collar, and a black tie. The man appeared to be about thirty-five years old, and was of a large and powerful frame. In his pockets were found a prayer book, a comb, two religious pictures and 70 cents in change. A card was also found, on the reverse side of which was written the name Mr. Velaket, No. 103 Throop-ave. The police visited this address, and found that a man by the name of Velaket had boarded there with a family which had afterward moved to No. 157 Stockton-st.

Up to a late hour last night the police had not been able to find the friends or relatives of the dead man. The body was finally given into the custody of Richard J. Collins, an undertaker, of No. 1,320 Third-ave.

ESTATE SHOULD GO TO HIS FATHER.

Surrogate Abbott rendered a decision yesterday setting aside the decree settling the account of Lena Nichols as administratrix of the estate of Stephen Losee, and directing her to distribute the estate. Losee disappeared in 1889, leaving property to the value of $2,700. Eight years later his neice, Lena Nichols, took out letters of administration, alleging that she and her brother and sisters were the nearest relatives. She also produced a letter, which she alleged was written by Mr. Losee, in which he said he intended to commit suicide. It now appears that he had a father living at the time of his disappearance, who died afterward. The Court decides that the estate of the son should have been paid over to his father's administrator.

MORE WATER MAINS NEEDED.

Water Commissioner Dalton wrote a letter yesterday to President Holahan, of the Board of Public Improvements, stating that the capacity of the large distribution mains in Brooklyn is overtaxed by the existing consumption of water, with the result that in the southern and southwestern parts of the borough, where building operations are most active, there is a decrease of pressure in the delivery of the water. He asks for six new distributing mains of from 20 to 48 inches diameter.

The request will be acted on at the meeting of the Board of Public Improvements to-day. No appropriation has been made for the mains.

GENERAL KING AT THE CIVIC CLUB.

HE ASSAILS THE CHICAGO PLATFORM AND THOSE WHO WOULD AID THE FILIPINOS.

General Horatio C. King spoke last night before the National Civic Club at its headquarters in Montague st. on "Patriotism vs. Partisanship." The address, which lasted for an hour, was in answer to the position taken by Edward M. Shepard and other Democrats before the club. He assailed the Chicago platform and those who attempted to give comfort and aid to the Filipinos. General King in referring to the Indianapolis Convention said: "This Old Guard of the Democratic party, true to the principles upon which this Republic was founded; true to the teachings of morality and religion; honest, not because honesty is the best policy, but because it is right, brave and unselfish, enunciated that noble platform that rallied to its support a grand army of equally unselfish followers and defeated the purpose of that undemocratic mob which, crazed by the blasphemous metaphor of a Populist orator, nominated William J. Bryan for president."

In regard to expansion, after giving a concise account of the Philippine Islands, their resources and the character of the population, he said: "This is a country over which we are unexpectedly called to assume control; these are the peoples, civilized, barbarous and savage, for whose destinies we are in a measure, at least, responsible. The car of progress for centuries past has moved, and will continue to move, with irresistible force. On those who believe in an overruling Providence rests the responsibility for the enlightenment of the ignorant and the debased.

"The work before us is to prepare the inhabitants of these fertile islands, rich in untold resources, to govern themselves; to develop the riches, so long neglected; to raise their children out of the miserable mire of ignorance and degradation; to fill their land with churches and schoolhouses; to open the unexplored wilderness to cultivation; to build roads and railroads—in a word, it is for us to carry to them all the blessings of civilization, of which they now have little or no conception. If this noble purpose brings wealth to our own land, who will deny to us this honorable reward? The Filipinos will soon learn the difference between Spanish tyranny and American protection, between the banner of the stars and the red and yellow—the blood and greed for gold of Spain.

"The duty before us is plain; we cannot recede with honor. To throw obstacles in the path of the Government in its efforts to restore order is not true patriotism. The blood of our soldiers is on the heads of those who have encouraged Aguinaldo to resistance, who place this purchasable adventurer on a plane with Washington, who by the most reprehensible methods have led him to believe that by prolonging the unequal contest this Government would recognize his authority and place him in supreme power.

"I repeat here the recent utterance of Colonel Watterson: 'No party ever threw itself across the path of its country's greatness and lived to tell the tale, and no party ever can, or will, or ought.'"

THE FIELDING TRIAL BEGUN.

EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO END IT BEFORE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S TERM EXPIRES.

District Attorney Hiram R. Steele succeeded yesterday in getting the Fielding trial started. It was begun at 4:30 o'clock, before Supreme Court Justice Smith, and before the adjournment six jurors had been accepted. Evening sessions of the court will be held, if it is necessary, in order to finish the case by Friday night, when the term ends. Before the beginning of the new term Judge Steele will have been succeeded by John F. Clarke as District Attorney.

The foreman of the jury is Charles L. Nielson, of No. 81 McKibben-st. The other jurors chosen yesterday afternoon are James A. Austerholt, No. 150 Ralph-ave.; Alfred C. Taylor, No. 1,032 Herkimer-st.; Joseph B. Carman, No. 303 Myrtle-ave.; George A. Wudlison, South Oxford-st., and Henry M. Fiske, No. 532 Seventh-ave.

There are a number of indictments against ex-Deputy Commissioner of City Works Fielding, but the one on which he is now to be tried charges that he fraudulently and knowingly audited a bill of Daniel F. Doody, for repaving New-Utrecht-ave. in the fall of 1897. The specific bill charged in the indictment, one for $1,945, is one of a series of nine bills for the same work, amounting in all to $17,241 35, all of which Fielding admitted, on the trial of ex-City Works Commissioner Willis, that he had personally audited.

It is declared that Doody should not have received a cent for the work. He had previously had a contract with the city for laying a water main in Neptune-ave., and the contract provided that he should replace the pavement in as good condition as he found it. The prosecution alleges, and will endeavor to show, that it was because this pavement was not replaced that the repaving was necessary.

District Attorney Steele is to be assisted in his prosecution of the case by Assistant District Attorney Griffin. Charles J. Patterson represents Mr. Fielding.

A DINNER FOR ADMIRAL DEWEY.

TO BE THE GUEST OF THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB ON FEBRUARY 8.

Admiral Dewey has accepted an invitation to be present at a private dinner at the Union League Club on February 8. The invitation was extended to him in Washington last week by W. E. Pulsifer, William Berri, Colonel G. A. Price and Andrew B. Rogers, as stated in The Tribune at the time. The acceptance, which was received yesterday morning, is as follows:

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst., and to accept for Mrs. Dewey and myself your kind invitation to attend a private dinner and reception to be given by the Union League Club of Brooklyn on the evening of February 8, 1900. Very truly yours,
GEORGE DEWEY.
W. E. Pulsifer, Esq., President Union League Club, Brooklyn, N. Y.

John S. McKeon, who was president of the Union League Club at the time of the battle of Manila, wrote a letter of congratulations to the commander of the American naval forces and asked him to promise to visit Brooklyn as soon as possible after his return. The letter was answered, but no definite promise was given. W. E. Pulsifer, the present president of the club, when in London last summer renewed the invitation to Admiral Dewey to be the guest of the Union League. The Admiral promised to consider the matter as soon as he was through with his public and official engagements.

The committee which went to Washington last week reminded him of that promise. He acceded to their request, and promised to set a date when he could be in Brooklyn. This he did in the letter received yesterday.

The details of the reception and dinner have not as yet been considered, but will be arranged at once.

HER PERIOD OF ABNEGATION ENDED.

MISS WILLETTS RETURNS HOME FROM A CONVENT AND RECEIVES AT AN AFTERNOON TEA.

Mrs. Edward G. Willetts, of No. 77 Columbia Heights, gave an afternoon tea yesterday, which in itself was in no way unusual, but for other reasons attracted considerable attention. Mrs. Willetts was assisted in the receiving of her guests by her two daughters, Miss Willetts and Mrs. Hewlett.

It was the presence of Miss Willetts at her mother's side that gave the occasion an added interest. Ten years ago the daughter left her home, her sisters and all that was dear, to take upon herself the veil of a nun. Although the other members of the family were communicants of the Episcopal Church, she alone turned to the Roman Catholic faith. The white dress that she wore when a débutante was exchanged for the sombre black of a nun, and the brilliant parlor gave way to the bare stone walls of a convent. For ten years she went to and fro along cloistered walks, attending to the duties of the sisterhood, fervent ever in the services of the church, but never forgetting the loved ones whom she had left without. At last her period of abnegation was ended, and now she has returned again to her home.

It was reported yesterday that Miss Willetts had only recently returned from the convent, and that her first appearance in society was on Tuesday of last week. It was also said that the afternoon tea which was held yesterday was in honor of her homecoming.

Mrs. Willetts said yesterday to a Tribune reporter: "My daughter Anglesea has been home some time, for she returned to us last April. The tea given this afternoon is the second we have given since returning from the country, and is no more than we are always accustomed to do every year. We are, of course, glad that she is no longer separated from us, but she did not enter the convent with the intention of remaining there for life. It was only in compliance with a religious vow which she took upon herself on becoming a Catholic. She is happy in having kept her vow, and still more happy in thus being able to return to us."

SALE OF A RAILROAD EXTENSION.

The extension of the Brooklyn and Brighton Beach Railroad from Park Place to Fulton-st. is to be sold within a short time. The property is under foreclosure of a mortgage of $500,000, held by the Brooklyn Trust Company. It is said that the sale will not bring a large sum, as the two lines which it connects are both owned by the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company.

CORONER MOVES HIS OFFICE.

The Coroner of the Borough of Brooklyn changed his office yesterday from the Court House to the Borough Hall, where he is to occupy rooms Nos. 17, 18 and 19. This suite is made up of a record room, a room for the public and a place where inquests are to be conducted.

All of the records of the Department were moved over yesterday, but it will be some time before the old officials of the Court House can realize that the Coroner has left them, as the office has been there more than twenty-five years.

NEW-JERSEY NEWS.

B. F. JONES FOR SPEAKER.

REPUBLICAN ASSEMBLYMEN SELECT THE OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE.

Trenton, Dec. 19 (Special).—The Essex County Republicans to-day enjoyed the fruits of their victories at the polls, B. F. Jones, of South Orange, being the unanimous choice of the Republican caucus for Speaker of the House of Assembly, and Essex obtaining ten other offices besides the Supervisor of Bills, which it secured by the appointment of the Governor. This handsome recognition of the work of the party in Essex was made the more emphatic by the hearty manner in which Mr. Jones's nomination was indorsed and by the unanimous vote by which he was chosen for Speaker.

Assemblyman Vivian M. Lewis, of Passaic, called the caucus to order at 11:30 a. m., and on motion of Messrs. Patterson and Wood the caucus was held with open doors.

Mr. Wood nominated Assemblyman E. W. Wakelee, of Bergen, for chairman of the caucus, which carries with it the leadership of the majority on the floor of the House. In taking the chair Mr. Wakelee thanked the Assemblymen for the honor, and said he realized that the post was one of hard work and responsibility, and said he would not endeavor to impress his individual views upon the House, but would seek to carry out the wishes of the majority.

Vivian M. Lewis and Ira W. Wood were nominated for secretary. The former declined and the latter was chosen.

The roll call showed that forty-two Assemblymen were present, the only absentee being W. J. Bradley, of Camden.

ALL WERE FOR JONES.

Mr. Wakelee took the floor and said that next to the pleasure of being Speaker was that of nominating for the place a man in whose ability and fitness every one had confidence, B. F. Jones, of Essex.

On motion of Mr. Lewis, of Passaic, the nominations were closed, and the nomination was seconded by Messrs. Kirkbride, of Monmouth; Lyon, of Middlesex; Foote, of Union, and Wood, of Mercer. By instruction the secretary cast the ballot, and Mr. Jones became the candidate of the caucus, amid applause.

OTHER OFFICERS CHOSEN.

The other offices were then quickly filled, as follows:

Clerk of the House, Captain James Parker, of Passaic.

Assistant clerk, George E. Poole, of Morris.

Journal clerk, Noah F. Morrison, of Union.

Sergeant at arms, Frank Tantum, of Monmouth.

Assistant sergeants at arms, Horatio E. Havens, of Ocean, and John C. Cooper, of Somerset.

Bill clerk, George E. Powell, of Essex.

A committee consisting of Assemblymen Lewis, Dexheimer, Welsh, Wood, Horner, Steelman and Wakelee, was appointed to apportion the other offices among the Republican counties, and after a recess this report was adopted:

Atlantic, Cape May, Gloucester, Passaic and Salem, each one doorkeeper; Cumberland, assistant journal clerk and one page; Bergen, assistant to the clerk of the House and one gallery keeper; Burlington, two doorkeepers; Camden, assistant bill clerk, one gallery keeper and one page; Essex, four doorkeepers and two pages; Middlesex, one doorkeeper and two pages; Mercer, two pages and assistant supervisor of bills; Union, two pages.

Mr. Wakelee, of Bergen, as leader, will necessarily be chairman of the important committees on Judiciary and Appropriations; Mr. Lewis, of Passaic, will be chairman of the Committee on Revision of Laws; Mr. Wood, of Mercer, Corporations; Mr. Clark, of Essex, Municipal Corporations; Mr. Bradley, of Camden, Railroads and Canals.

These are the most important chairmanships. Other committees, so far as it is possible to make a forecast, will probably have these chairmen: Agriculture, Wright, of Burlington; Elections, Bradley, of Camden; Supervision of Bills, Dexheimer, of Essex; Game and Fisheries, Horner, of Burlington; Riparian Rights, Steelman, of Cumberland; Towns and Townships, Klein, of Essex; Ways and Means, Lewis, of Passaic; Rules, Wakelee, of Bergen.

Mr. Graves, of Bergen, would have been chairman of the Committee on Boroughs if he had lived, but now the place is likely to go to Brandenburg, of Essex, with Wakelee as a member of the committee.

In addition, Bergen, Passaic, Camden, Mercer and Essex will each get a committee clerkship and Essex the two secretaries to the Speaker.

On motion of Assemblyman Jones, it was decided to adopt the rules of the last House, with the exception of those pertaining to the engrossing department.

Assemblyman Wright, of Burlington, offered a resolution, which was adopted, requesting the Attorney General to submit an opinion as to the constitutionality of the law creating the office of Supervisor of Legislative Bills.

A STRONG ORGANIZATION.

The organization of the House is undoubtedly strong. Mr. Jones has for the time practically given up his personal business, and will devote himself exclusively to his duties as Speaker, and confidence is felt that he will make a ready, fair and impartial presiding officer. He will be well sustained by Mr. Wakelee as leader on the floor of the House, who in turn will have the able assistance of Mr. Lewis, as chairman of the steering committee of the caucus.

The other committees are: Banks and Insurance, Bill Revision, Claims, Education, Incidental Expenses, Labor and Industries, Militia, Miscellaneous Business, Stationery, Unfinished Business and Public Health.

CLERGYMEN WILL APPEAL.

Paterson, Dec. 19 (Special).—Recorder Senior this morning dismissed the complaints against six barbers charged with violating the Sunday law by shaving on the Sabbath. A number of clergymen representing various denominations were in court and were indignant at the action taken by the Magistrate. A mass meeting was convened in a nearby hall and it was decided to take an appeal to the Court of Quarter Sessions. In giving his decision the Recorder said he had given the cases careful consideration and was satisfied that shaving on Sunday was a necessity. The City Counsel, in a written opinion, has said that persons convicted of doing work other than what is necessary should be fined.

CAUGHT STEALING SILVERWARE.

Henry C. Stilwell, of No. 661 Jersey-ave., Jersey City, was awakened at 4 o'clock yesterday morning by a noise in his house. He made an investigation, and found a colored man examining the silverware with the aid of a candle. The thief ran into the yard. Mr. Stilwell started for the street and called, "Police!" Patrolman Van Riper responded. Learning that the intruder had fled by the rear he hastened around the corner to Seventh-st. and caught the burglar as he jumped from a fence to the sidewalk. The prisoner, who registered as James Stewart, forty-two years old, of No. 149 West Thirty-third-st., New-York, was armed with a dagger, carried a candle and had four napkin rings belonging to Mr. Stilwell. He was committed for trial by Justice Potts.

A POLICE JUSTICE EXPLAINS.

Police Justice John J. Nevin, of Jersey City, published an open letter yesterday to Prosecutor Erwin, in which he replies to the references to him and his court in the long presentment of the last Grand Jury, in which he was charged with aiding in the overcrowding of the county jail by not sending prisoners to the penitentiary, of carelessness in filling out commitments, and neglecting to promptly send them to the Prosecutor, and neglect in absenting himself from the bench. Justice Nevin quotes the law to show that only prisoners committed for six months or longer are to be sent to the penitentiary. He also cites the law to show that prisoners held for the action of the Grand Jury are held for the succeeding, and not the current, term. His absence, he explained, was due to illness, and he quoted the law to show he had authority to designate a justice of the peace to act for him.

VICAR-GENERAL MULCAHY ILL.

Atlantic City, Dec. 19.—Father J. A. Mulcahy, Vicar-General of St. Patrick's Church, Hartford, Conn., who has been here for a month past for the benefit of his health, is in a critical condition. Rev. Father J. J. Smith, of Norwich, Conn., a life-long friend of the Vicar-General, and his niece are here with him.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED.

Passaic, Dec. 19 (Special).—The new Hobart Trust