THE PRESIDENT AND SOME OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

EDWARD T. POTTER. EUGENE SMITH. ST. CLAIR M'KELWAY. COL. JACOB L. GREENE. OSCAR S. STRAUS. W. C. LE GENDRE. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON. (Copyright, 1901, by Doubleday, Page & Co.) SEYMOUR DEXTER. CHARLES B. HUBBELL. W. M. F. ROUND.

LEGISLATION FOR NEW-YORK.

MOST IMPORTANT LAW PASSED IS THAT PROVIDING FOR PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD SUBWAY.

FOURTH-AVE. TUNNEL MATTERS MAY COME UP IN JUNE.

Albany, April 20 (Special).—Governor Odell having completed his examination of all the State legislation of 1902 referring to the city of New-York, and having announced his decision upon it, the people of that city will now be able to learn precisely the changes made in their charter this year, and the particulars of other legislation affecting their welfare.

In general it may be said that this legislation is less important than that of a year ago, if modifications of the charter alone are considered; for then a general revision of the charter of the city was submitted. But if legislation which may lead to a large increase of the city's commercial advantages is considered, possibly the passage of the act admitting the Pennsylvaina Railroad to the city may be thought to put this year's work in importance above that of 1901. It is true there was a disappointing failure of legislation when Governor Odell felt forced to express his disapproval of the Bedell bill, designed to bring about the enlargement of the terminals of the railroads using the Grand Central Station, and of Assemblyman Apgar's bill to put an end to the use of steam as a motive power in the Fourth-ave. tunnel, but it is hoped that this failure will be a temporary one—that the legislation required to prevent accidents in the tunnel can be secured early in 1903, or, if necessary, at an extra session of the legislature in June of this year.

For the first time in years the State administration had absolutely harmonious relations with the administration of New-York City in all important matters of legislation. Governor Odell, before the legislature met, had voluntarily given his pledge to Mayor Low that the home rule rights of the city should be respected, and this pledge was kept. No city bill disapproved by Mayor Low is on the statute books. On the other hand, the bills pressed by him, which he thought necessary to give him ample authority to improve the city administration, are now laws. The chief of these bills, of course, was the so-called "Sweep bill," giving the Board of Estimate and Apportionment authority before May 1, "upon the recommendation of the Mayor or any borough president, or head of any department, bureau, office, board or commission of the city of New-York, or of any of the counties embraced therein, to fix salaries in any of said offices, departments, bureaus, boards or commissions." Under that act the Board of Estimate and Apportionment will have authority to reduce the salaries of overpaid men put upon the salary rolls by Tammany Hall. The fusion members of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, Mayor Low, Controller Grout, President Fornes of the Board of Aldermen, President Cantor of the Borough of Manhattan, President Swanstrom of the Borough of Brooklyn, and President Cromwell of the Borough of Richmond, are said to have desired to have this authority conferred in order to reduce the expenses of the city.

RAPID TRANSIT MEASURES.

The Board of Rapid Transit Commissioners had great influence in shaping the legislation regarding the introduction of tunnel railways and amending the rapid transit act. It was through the influence of the Rapid Transit Commissioners, for instance, that the Pennsylvania Railway act was passed in a shape satisfactory to the city. That act authorizes the Rapid Transit Commissioners to grant to the Pennsylvania Railroad a franchise to construct a tunnel railway. As is known, this tunnel will extend from the North River to the East River beneath Manhattan Island, and will be the connecting link of tunnels of the railway beneath the rivers mentioned. Thus trains of the railway from the West will be enabled to reach a station at Eighth-ave. and Thirtieth-st., and then pass on, if needful, into Long Island. The rental to be paid for the franchise is to be revalued every twenty-five years.

Another step to provide New-York with greater rapid transit facilities was taken when the Governor signed Senator Stranahan's bill authorizing Mr. McDonald, the contractor who is building the underground rapid transit tunnel, to assign his contract for operating the rapid transit railroad. This act also had the approval of the Rapid Transit Commission. Still another act approved by them reduces the amount of advertising needed in appraisals under the Rapid Transit act. Yet another act approved by them authorizes the Board of Aldermen to regulate the erection of buildings to be used as stations for the rapid transit railroad.

TENEMENT HOUSE LEGISLATION.

Robert W. De Forest, the Tenement House Commissioner, had the hard task of defending the Tenement House act, framed with such care in 1901, from a dangerous assault, builders in the Borough of Brooklyn seeking to make most radical and, as he considered, dangerous changes in the law. The attacks were repelled, and while the act was amended, no innovations of moment were made, while concessions were made for which builders are grateful. These amendments were embodied in a bill introduced by Mr. Kelsey. One of the chief amendments made to the Tenement House law provides that "in tenement houses hereafter erected not exceeding three stories and a cellar in height, and which also are not occupied or arranged to be occupied by more than six families in all, or by more than two families on any floor, and in which also each apartment extends through from the street to the yard, the width of an inner court situated on the lot line measured from the lot line to the opposite wall of the building shall not be less than eight feet in any part, and its horizontal dimension shall not be less than fourteen feet in any part."

DOCKS AND WATER SUPPLY.

The Commissioner of Docks and Ferries, through Assemblyman Kelsey, secured the passage of two important acts relating to the docks. One of them authorizes the Commissioner to acquire for the use of the city the wharf property between Bloomfield-st. and the northerly side of West Twenty-third-st., on the North River. In another act the Commissioner of Docks is authorized to make temporary leases of wharf property for a period not exceeding one year.

J. Hampden Dougherty, the Commissioner of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, exerted all his influence to induce the legislature to repeal the Burr act, which prevents the Borough of Brooklyn from obtaining water for its reservoirs in Suffolk County. Mr. Dougherty was successful, however, in another direction, persuading Governor Odell last week to sign Senator Marshall's bill authorizing the city to acquire the property of the New-York and Westchester Water Company. By the acquisition of this property the city will be enabled to increase the water supply of the towns of the Annexed District.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS.

For Commissioner Sturgis Assemblyman Colby secured the passage of a bill giving the Fire Department control of all fires on any vessel in the harbor or on any dock. The object of this law is to give the Fire Department legal authority over all tugs or ships that approach the scene of a fire. The Commissioner in his efforts to prevent dangerous crushes in theatres seems to have attracted the attention of Senator Grady, for that Senator induced the legislature to pass an act providing that the lobbies in the rear of the inside aisles and passageways of theatres "may be used for standing room in such manner as not to obstruct the inside aisles." Mayor Low refused to accept this act, doubtless under advice from Commissioner Sturgis, and Governor Odell did not sign it. An act was passed, introduced by Senator Cocks, providing for the inclusion of volunteer firemen in the ranks of the Fire Department on their passing a non-competitive examination for fitness.

THE LAW'S DELAYS.

While the legislature was in session its attention was called by the Chamber of Commerce to the delay in the consideration of cases by the Supreme Court in the counties of Kings and New-York, owing to the accumulation of cases, and the suggestion was made that a commissioner be appointed "to inquire into the delays and expenses in the administration of justice in the counties of New-York and Kings and to suggest legislation thereon." This suggestion was adopted, and a bill framed by Assemblyman Rogers is now among the laws of the year. It authorizes the Governor to appoint a commission of seven persons "to examine into the condition of the business and the transaction thereof of the courts in the counties of New-York and Kings, and into the cause for any delay that may exist in the trial and disposition of cases and proceedings in the courts exercising jurisdiction within such limits, and the expenses incident thereto, and to suggest such measures of legislation as may in their judgment tend to expedite the trial and disposition of such legal business as may come before the courts." This commission is to make a report upon the result of its investigation to the Governor on or before December 31. The legislature also passed and the Governor signed a bill, introduced by Senator Brackett, providing for the assignment of Supreme Court judges for service in the New-York and Kings County courts, but also declaring that no assignment shall be made hereafter from any judicial district that will not leave at all times at least two trial justices in such district.

BUREAU OF TREE CULTURE.

Under an act presented by Assemblyman Seymour, and signed by Governor Odell, the Park Board will have care of the trees in the city of New-York and of their cultivation. A bureau is to be established for tree culture.

The legislature accepted the gift of the books of the Brooklyn Library, and passed an act incorporating the Brooklyn Public Library, which will be managed by a corporation to be known as the "Brooklyn Public Library," with directors from the present Brooklyn Public Library and from the trustees of the Brooklyn Library. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment is authorized to contract with this corporation for the maintenance of a free public library system in the Borough of Brooklyn. In a bill presented by Senator Elsberg the number of trustees of the New-York Public Library, of the Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations, is increased from twenty-one to twenty-five; and the Mayor, the Controller and the President of the Board of Aldermen are made members of the board of trustees.

CODIFICATIONS AND LAWS.

One of the most voluminous acts passed is a codification of the laws relating to the Municipal Court of the City of New-York, its officers and marshals. This was introduced by Assemblyman Wilson.

Controller Grout was the author of one far reaching act, changing the time for collecting the taxes of the city, introduced by Assemblyman Kelsey, but, owing to the discovery of a serious error in it, Governor Odell did not sign the bill, although only for this error it would have received the approval of the city authorities. Controller Grout estimated that the act would save to the city $70,000 yearly.

The Governor signed an act introduced by Senator Fuller providing for the appointment of a commissioner of jurors in Kings County by the county judges and the Surrogate of that county.

The Governor also signed an act, approved of by Mayor Low, providing for the appointment of an additional justice of the Court of Special Sessions and the organization of a children's court.

A law was passed, framed by Senator Elsberg, creating a retirement fund for the president, vice-president, professors, assistant professors and instructors of the College of the City of New-York.

Senator Fuller introduced a bill, which was passed, authorizing the issue of corporate stock of the city to the extent of $3,000,000 yearly for repairing streets.

SOME OF THE MINOR ACTS.

Among the minor acts signed by Governor Odell in regard to New-York were as follows:

By Senator Hennessy—Authorizing the construction of a building for hospital purposes in the Borough of The Bronx.

By Senator Elsberg—Providing a retirement fund for the teachers in schools or classes maintained in institutions controlled by the Department of Public Charities or the Department of Correction.

By Senator Hennessy—Authorizing the New-York Zoological Society to control zoological parks.

By Senator Hennessy—Authorizing the Board of Taxes and Assessments to remit or reduce a tax if found excessive or erroneous.

By Assemblyman Seymour—Authorizing a further appropriation for the maintenance of the American Museum of Natural History in Central Park.

By Assemblyman Newcomb—Providing for the appointment of a woman probation officer in the Court of Special Sessions.

By Senator Stranahan—Authorizing a further appropriation to the New-York Zoological Society for the support of the New-York Aquarium.

By Senator Elsberg—Authorizing the purchase of additional grounds for the use of the College of the City of New-York.

By Assemblyman Wainwright—Amending the Code of Civil Procedure relating to the City Court of the city.

By Senator Slater—Relieving the Law Department of the city from paying fees to city, county and other officers.

By Assemblyman Keenan—Regarding the payment of unpaid taxes in New-York City.

By Assemblyman Prince—Providing that eight hours shall constitute a day's work for persons employed by aqueduct contractors.

By Assemblyman Cotton—Providing for the issue of corporate stock for the Atlantic-ave. improvement.

MAYOR LOW DISAPPROVED.

A large number of bills passed by the legislature were not approved by Mayor Low, and therefore did not become laws. It must have been known in many instances by the Republican leaders in the legislature that Mayor Low would not approve them, and it was not thought harmful, therefore, to pass them. The Mayor did not approve Senator Donnelly's bill authorizing the payment of the claims of certain people employed by the Board of Education in 1900; nor Senator Audett's bill to enable the Commissioner of Docks to reinstate certain people; nor Senator McCarren's act to place certain retired teachers on the pension list; nor Senator Audett's bill providing for a zoological collection in Forest Park; nor Senator Ahearn's bill providing that a person may be appointed a patrolman of the police force, although over thirty years of age, if his name has been on the eligible list.

The Mayor did not approve Senator Mills's bill providing for a division of the expense of acquiring title to White Plains-ave.; nor Senator Fuller's bill providing that appeals from decisions of the superintendents of buildings shall be heard by a board of examiners, which shall have as one of its members a member of the Brooklyn Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

For some reason Mayor Low did not approve of Senator Krum's bill authorizing the Board of Taxes and Assessments to hear and determine applications for the correction of errors in the assessment of the stock of banks in 1901; nor Senator Wagner's bill authorizing the repayment of penalties to certain banks in the city of New-York.

The Assembly passed but the Senate failed to pass Assemblyman McKeown's bills authorizing the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to reduce salaries in the offices of the Register, County Clerk and Sheriff of Kings County. These acts had the approval of Controller Grout.

Mayor Low also disapproved of Senator Elsberg's bill authorizing the appropriation of money for the support of the inmates of any institution conducted by the Jewish Protectory and Aid Society; Senator Grady's bill providing for an apportionment of water rents, and Assemblyman Seymour's bill in relation to the charges for wharfage of lighters.

Assemblyman Adler could not get through the legislature his bill permitting the sale of meat for a short time on Sunday. Mayor Low also disapproved Assemblyman Adler's bill grading the keepers of the Department of Correction, and Assemblyman Adler's bill to pay for the services rendered by some election officers in 1897.

Mayor Low disapproved Assemblyman Finch's bill providing that service as a coroner's physician shall be considered as of service on the police force if the person has afterward become a policeman and applied for a pension. The Mayor also disapproved Assemblyman Litthauer's bill releasing St. Joseph's Asylum, in New-York, from assessments heretofore made.

WHY "LITTLE CONEY ISLAND" WON.

Governor Odell was forced to veto Assemblyman Bennet's bill to prohibit dancing halls. This bill was aimed at "Little Coney Island," in New-York. The Attorney General held that it was unconstitutional.

Mayor Low disapproved Assemblyman Sanders's bill authorizing the appointment of two additional justices of the Municipal Court for the Borough of Brooklyn, and three additional justices of the same court for the Borough of Manhattan, and the bill died; Assemblyman Davis's bill authorizing the Controller to audit the claim of the New-York Produce Exchange for the expenses incurred in the pursuit of William R. Foster; Assemblyman J. A. Allen's bill to establish and improve a public park, to be known as Hamilton Park; Assemblyman Bennet's bill authorizing the Commissioner of Docks to reinstate certain persons in the position of dock master, and Assemblyman Keenan's bill relative to assessments by the Board of Assessors.

NO GAS BILLS PASSED.

None of the acts introduced by the Tammany Hall members of the legislature for lowering the price of gas or to establish a municipal gas plant escaped from the committees to which they were sent. There were also police reinstatement bills by the score which failed to pass. The most notable of these was the bill reinstating Policeman Edward O'Neill. This bill passed the Assembly, but failed to pass the Senate.

Nor were any bills passed relating to New-York permitting the sale of liquor on Sunday. District Attorney Jerome's bill authorizing the sale of liquor on Sunday, which was introduced by Senator Wagner, never got out of the room of the Senate committee to which it was sent. There was a prospect at one time that Senator Raines's bill making far more strict the supervision of Raines law hotels would pass the legislature, but after passing the Senate it met with disapproval in the Assembly.

Many bills were introduced providing for vestibules on streetcars. Assemblyman Pendry had such a bill applying to the Borough of Brooklyn, and Assemblyman Prince one applying to the entire city, but both failed to pass.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME.

SENATE LIKELY TO PASS RIVER AND HARBOR BILL—WORK OF HOUSE.

Washington, April 20.—The Senate will begin the week by taking up the River and Harbor Appropriation bill to-morrow, and when that measure is disposed of will resume consideration of the Philippine Government bill. It is not expected that much time will be required to get the River and Harbor bill through the Senate, as it is generally approved by Senators. Senator Frye, chairman of the Committee on Commerce, who has charge of the bill, to-day expressed the opinion that there would be no debate on the bill, and that it would pass as soon as it could be read. It is now understood that Senator Rawlins, the senior Democratic member of the Senate Committee on the Philippines, shall lead off in the speechmaking in opposition to the Philippine bill, to be followed by other members of the committee and other Democratic Senators. The opinion is expressed that the bill will be before the Senate for at least three weeks.

The early part of the coming week in the House of Representatives will be devoted to routine business, with a prospect that some important general legislation may be taken up in the latter part of the week. To-morrow will be devoted to District of Columbia business, Tuesday to war claims, and Wednesday to the Oleomargarine bill, which was amended by the Senate. In the remaining days of the week it is practically settled that the Anti-Anarchist bill of Chairman Ray of the Judiciary Committee will be considered. The measure is much more stringent than the one passed by the Senate. Two appropriation bills, the Agricultural and Naval bills, are about ready, and may be brought in at any time, and the Military Academy Appropriation bill is on the calendar.

IN COLLISION WITH A FERRY SLIP.

The sidewheel steamboat J. S. Warden, after coaling up at Communipaw yesterday morning, was going to the pier at East Thirty-fourth-st. to take on passengers on her way to the Fishing Banks, when, in the thick fog, she ran into the projection of the ferry slip at the foot of Catherine-st. and carried away ten feet of her port guard. The trip to the Fishing Banks was abandoned for the day.

PRESIDENT ORDERS INQUIRY.

FITCHIE TOLD TO INVESTIGATE STORY OF POLICE CRUELTY TO IMMIGRANTS.

Immigration Commissioner Fitchie received yesterday orders from Washington to make an investigation of a charge that the police on duty at the Barge Office treated the immigrants cruelly. The order was accompanied by a letter written to President Roosevelt by a Brooklynite signing himself "R. A. Carrick." The writer inclosed a clipping from a local newspaper, headed "The Immigrant Herders," which he had pencilled to indicate the particular paragraphs to which he wished to call the President's attention. Mr. Carrick said substantially that he had personally observed the specific case referred to in the clipping, in which a man signing himself "Pegram Dargan" wrote to the editor of the paper declaring that he saw an immigrant slashed three times with a rawhide by a policeman. He declared that the policeman who did this charged on the immigrants, armed with a rawhide whip three feet long, and, "glaring like a bull, falls upon them as sheep or dogs and beats them at his own will and pleasure."

The President referred the subject to the Secretary of the Treasury, who in turn sent the correspondence to Terence V. Powderly, Commissioner General of Immigration, who forwarded it here with the order to investigate and report.

"The men who wrote the newspaper story and letters are not familiar with the facts," said Commissioner Fitchie yesterday, after reading the voluminous correspondence from Washington. "It is true that to a casual onlooker who sees the police officers at the Battery driving back the crowds who gather there every time a shipload of immigrants is being landed it may seem that the police are unnecessarily severe. They see them pushing and driving back the crowd from the curb where the express wagons are waiting for the immigrants, and, not understanding the situation, they go away impressed that they have seen the poor immigrants driven around and abused. As a matter of fact, it is not the immigrants that the policemen are driving at all, but the hordes of hotel runners and idlers who congregate there and who must be kept off the sidewalk for the protection of the very immigrant who is made the object of sympathy. Two-thirds of those who make up these crowds are there for no other purpose than to rob the immigrants by one scheme or another, if given a chance. Any one who has any legitimate business with any of the arriving immigrants can secure a pass to go over to Ellis Island and meet them there. Even that system has been abused, owing to the carelessness of some of the steamship lines in issuing passes to all comers, without sufficient evidence that they are entitled to the privilege. With the greatly increased rush of immigration since the first of the year, it was found impossible for the two policemen in plain clothes who were stationed at the Barge Office to control these crowds, and at my request two more in uniform were detailed to assist them. Even with this force on busy days it has been impossible to prevent some of the "sharks" who gather there from carrying off immigrants, and several arrests have been made of men who had undertaken to force immigrants to go with them when they found persuasion unavailing. Orders were finally issued to the policemen to keep the crowds on the opposite side of the street until the immigrants coming off the Ellis Island boat had been dispersed to their several destinations. It is in trying to enforce this order that the officers are required to use force, and sometimes they need to use plenty of it. They no sooner drive one bunch back than another crowd rushes forward at a different point and has to be similarly handled. It is these crowds of hangers on and idlers whom the police use their whips on, not on the immigrant. I have yet to hear of a case in which an immigrant has received anything but protection and assistance from the police."

Officers Quackenbos, Dickey, Gebhard and Tancredi, who are detailed on this duty at the Barge Office, make the same statement, and declare that in several instances the "sharks" have drawn knives and attacked the officers. A man whom Detective Quackenbos arrested a few weeks ago made a slash at the detective with a knife, cutting through his overcoat and other clothing and just missing disembowelling him.

It has been worse than ever the last few weeks, Quackenbos says, because the Commissioners of Immigration have recently issued an order that persons with passes must be kept off the dock until the immigrants are unloaded from the ferryboat on each trip, have been passed outside the gate and dispersed.

"TIE UP THE ROUNDHOUSES."

BALTIMORE AND OHIO STRIKERS SAY THAT THIS WILL WIN THEIR STRIKE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Baltimore, April 20.—"Tie up the roundhouses and our fight is won," was the appeal sent out to-day by the strikers in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad machine shops here to union machinists who are employed in the roundhouses and shops of the great system between Philadelphia, Baltimore and Chicago. The strikers to-night say they have assurances that by Wednesday the entire Baltimore and Ohio system east of Chicago will be crippled. In addition to the force of the Mountclaire shops in this city now out, about two hundred men at Riverside and a similar number at Cumberland are expected to quit to-morrow. The Mountclaire works are tied up, but the locomotives there are mostly "dead ones," as the men call them—that is, under repairs. The strike leaders at a meeting to-day said:

We want to tie up the "live" engines that are running. These engines are repaired and cleaned at roundhouses. The "live" engines are the ones that make money for the company. Tie up the roundhouses, and our strike is won.

The president of the Maryland union has telegraphed to the president of the Maryland International Machinists that if the company refuses to abandon the piece work system at the Baltimore shops, and insists upon introducing it in the other shops, the machinists and helpers in every shop and roundhouse on the entire system will be urged to strike at noon on Tuesday.

SOCIAL SCIENTISTS TO MEET HERE.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY WILL HOLD SESSIONS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

The American Social Science Association begins its series of meetings to-day at 8:30 p. m., when the president, Oscar Straus, delivers an address on "Our Diplomacy with Reference to Our Diplomatic and Consular Service." The series will cover five days. On Tuesday at 10 a. m. John Graham Brooks will speak on "Some Notes on the Tragedy of Industry." At 10:45 a. m. A. Maurice Low will deliver an address on "The English Workingman's Compensation Act." Adna F. Weber, chief statistician of the Department of Labor, State of New-York, will present a discussion of the public policy in relation to industrial accidents.

In the evening of the same day James R. Burnett gives a paper on "Critical Opinions Upon Employer's Liability Legislation in the United States," and the paper will then be discussed by Carroll D. Wright, E. J. Page and others. Tuesday's proceedings will sum up the department of social economy. Wednesday will be devoted to jurisprudence, with addresses by Professor Theodore S. Woolsey, of Yale; George C. Holt, E. B. Whitney and David J. Hill. Thursday is set apart for the department of health and Friday for that of education and art.

THE COAL TRADE.

Philadelphia, April 20.—"The Ledger" in its coal article to-morrow will say:

The anthracite coal trade develops considerable activity, as the fixing of the spring coal prices and arrangement of discounts have given such stability that the dealers are now ordering more coal. It is quite evident that the coal carrying companies will have to provide more cars to keep up with the present rate of ordering for domestic supply. The output for April is expected to considerably exceed that for March, which amounted to 3,818,767 tons. Coastwise shipments are reported as better, now that the prices are fixed, but there is hardly as much coal as yet moving up the lakes as had been anticipated after the opening of navigation

CONSUMPTION IS DECREASING.

DR. KOCH'S DISCOVERY OF TUBERCLE BACILLUS SAID TO HAVE SAVED MANY LIVES.

DEATH RATE DIMINISHED 37 PER CENT SINCE 1866.

Deaths from consumption in this city have been decreasing for years. This is due largely to the growing knowledge of the infectious character of the disease and the necessity for taking great care to prevent its transmission. This knowledge has been spread in various ways through the diligent efforts of the Board of Health. The death rate from consumption in many other cities is also declared to be decreasing in proportion to the population, and this is true not only of America but of Europe. The general decrease in deaths from consumption over a large part of the civilized world is attributed to the announcement of the discovery of Koch, in 1882, that consumption is infectious, and his declaration of the necessity for destroying the sputa.

An interesting statement on the decrease in the number of deaths from consumption in this city was given to a Tribune reporter recently by Dr. William H. Guilfoy, register of the Board of Health. He said there had been a gradual decrease in the number of deaths from consumption in this city for twenty years past. In 1881 the death rate from consumption was 4.27 a thousand population, and in 1901 it was only 2.50 a thousand. The doctor accordingly estimated that 3,787 lives had been saved from 1881 to 1901 in Manhattan and The Bronx, and about 6,430 lives had been saved in the entire greater city, with a population of 3,600,000. For the first quarter of this year there were 182 fewer deaths from consumption in this city than for the corresponding quarter last year. When asked how he explained the decrease in the number of deaths from consumption Dr. Guilfoy replied that it was due in part to measures instituted by the Board of Health, at least since 1896. It was also due to the spread of knowledge that consumption is an infectious disease and that more care is taken in regard to the sputum. The measures of the Board of Health in having every room used by a tuberculous patient cleaned have been very important. Dr. Guilfoy said that when the reporting of cases of consumption to the Board of Health was started, about 1896, the board did not get half the cases, but now the majority of cases were reported.

DISEASE CURABLE IN EARLY STAGES.

"A person sick with consumption," the doctor added, "doesn't realize it. He doesn't realize it to the end. He imagines he has a cold, and lets it run along for months. By methods of scientific diagnosis consumption can be detected, and the earlier it is diagnosed the better. Consumption is undoubtedly curable in its early stages."

Dr. Hermann M. Biggs, the bacteriological expert of the Board of Health, declared that the decrease in deaths from consumption was largely due to the increased knowledge of the nature of the disease and its means of transmission, and to the greater care taken for its prevention. Improvement in the general hygienic conditions under which the tenement house population was living was also a considerable factor. The doctor remarked that it was more than fifteen years since the Department of Health under his direction had taken up this investigation, and for eight or nine years all the deaths from tuberculosis and reported cases had been followed by a visit by inspectors of the department and instructions given, and where necessary the premises had been renovated and disinfected. A knowledge of the communicable character of the disease had thus been very widely disseminated. In Dr. Biggs's opinion tuberculosis is to be regarded as a strictly preventable disease, and he is confident the vital statistics of the next ten years will show a very material and still larger reduction than in the past.

"What is specially necessary and desirable," the doctor went on to say, "is wider dissemination of knowledge as to the communicable nature of the disease, the danger from the expectorations and the creation of a public sentiment which requires the proper disposal of the sputum.

"Consumption is distinctly curable in its early stages. The department makes free examination of sputum to assist early diagnosis, which is all important. About 80 per cent of the tuberculous cases in Manhattan and The Bronx are now reported to the Board of Health. Consumption is somewhat on the decrease in other cities, but not to so striking a degree as in New-York. The actual deaths from tuberculosis in Manhattan and The Bronx are less to-day than they were twenty years ago, although we had, then a population of only 1,200,000 or 1,300,000, and now we have a population of over 2,100,000. The actual number of deaths from tuberculous diseases in 1881 was 6,123, and in 1901 was 6,049."

STATISTICS FROM DR. TRACY.

Dr. Roger S. Tracy, former Register of the Board of Health for a score of years, also furnished some important statistics. He recalled the fact that after the organization of the board, in 1866, the death rate from consumption for the first five years was 4.11 a thousand every year. It went down a little, but not much, until the time when Koch made public his discovery of the tubercle bacillus, in 1882, announced that consumption was infectious, and declared the necessity of destroying the sputa.

"It took some time," said Dr. Tracy, "for that to filter through the newspapers and become generally known. In the five years following, the death rate from consumption went down to 3.50 a thousand population, in the next five years to 2.86 a thousand, and from 1896 to 1900 to 2.56 a thousand. That is a diminution of 37 per cent from 1866 to 1900.

"This diminution in tuberculosis has taken place all over the civilized world about the same time, since the discovery of Koch's bacillus. In connection with that it is interesting to recall that it was suggested that this great decrease might possibly be only apparent, and was due to false certificates of death furnished by physicians in the cases of men who had been members of industrial benevolent organizations. If a member dies from consumption within six months after becoming a member of some of those organizations, his insurance will not be paid to his heirs. Undoubtedly, in some cases doctors have given false certificates so that families could collect the insurance. Investigating, in 1894, this suggestion of suppression of reports of deaths from consumption, I found that the decrease in tuberculous cases was mostly among females. Now, as most of the industrial certificates were taken out by men, it seemed to show pretty conclusively that the decrease was due to the recognition of the infectiousness of the tubercle bacillus. That discovery of Koch's will undoubtedly save many more lives."

THE TUBERCULOSIS CONGRESS.

IT WILL MEET AT THE HOTEL MAJESTIC IN MAY—MORE VICE-PRESIDENTS TO BE NAMED.

The American Congress of Tuberculosis will meet in this city at the Hotel Majestic on May 14, 15 and 16. The sessions will be held in the morning and afternoon. At four of them the following subjects will be discussed: Preventive legislation, embracing the social, municipal and State aspects of tuberculosis; tuberculosis in its pathological and bacteriological aspects, medical and surgical aspects and veterinary aspects.

In addition to the vice-presidents already chosen, the executive committee has authorized the appointment of three from each State, county or province, and an honorary vice-president from each. Some delay has been experienced in filling the list of names, eleven States and several Central and South American countries not having yet replied.

In this country delegates have recently been appointed by the Governors of the States, who are themselves honorary vice-presidents, as follows: Arizona, 11; Idaho, 23; Montana, 31; North Carolina, 9; Arizona, 23; Texas, 8; Vermont, 10, and West Virginia, 47.

The Dominion of Canada and its provinces have shown great interest in the work, resulting in the organization of the Canadian Society for the Prevention of Consumption.

LODGED IN STREETCARS.

ORPHAN BOY SOLD PAPERS TO KEEP UP INSURANCE TO PROVIDE FOR HIS FUNERAL.

John Bassechal, ten years old, was arraigned yesterday in the Morrisania court by Sergeant Hamilton, who said he found the lad curled up and asleep in a corner of a Fordham car at 7 p. m. on Saturday. When the car arrived near the Morrisania station the sergeant awoke the lad and told him to come along. The boy refused, and the sergeant after a parley tried to carry him off. The lad resisted with tears, and, grabbing the siderail of the car, clung to it. His fingers were pried off by the conductor.

"At the station," said the sergeant, "the boy told me his father and mother were dead, and he lived with an uncle, Peter Conway, of No. 511 East Eleventh-st. The uncle said he would have nothing to do with the boy."

The lad said that he had been earning his own living the last month by selling newspapers. He earned enough to keep up the 10 cents a week payment on his own life insurance policy, which would pay his funeral expenses when he died. When asked where he slept at night, he said the conductors on The Bronx cars were kind and some of them allowed him to ride the length of the road and return for one fare at night. He went to sleep as soon as he got on board and did not wake up until the car reached the starting point. Magistrate Mott turned the boy over to the Children's Society.

FOUR HURT IN RUNAWAY.

DOG FRIGHTENS HORSES BY BITING AT THEIR HEELS.

While George Thoma, a merchant of Mount Vernon, was driving yesterday in South Fourth-ave., that city, with his wife and two children, a big dog ran biting at the heels of his horses, and caused them to run away. When the Park Circle was reached the horses dashed into the curb, the occupants were thrown out and the carriage was smashed.

Detectives Gleitsman and Atwell picked up Mr. Thoma, who was unconscious. He was taken in an ambulance to his home, No. 215 South Seventh-ave. The oldest boy, George, had the skin torn from his face, and Mrs. Thoma and the other son were also hurt. Mr. Thoma has a gaping wound on the head. He was injured the worst, because he clung to the reins and tried to stop the team.

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