New-York Tribune.

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MURPHY'S PLAY FOR SAFETY.

SEEKS TO GET M'CALL IN SINKING FUND BOARD TO WATCH PIER LEASES.

Five Fusion Members Deliver Board of Aldermen to Tammany—An Appeal to Courts.

MURPHY BADLY SCARED.

Orders Tammany Men to Put McCall at Head of Finance Committee.

Scared at the prospect of having to answer on the witness stand the question, "Where did you get it?" Charles F. Murphy and his associates ordered the Tammany aldermen at the meeting of the board yesterday to protect the rotten leases granted by the Murphy Dock Board under the Van Wyck administration to the Murphys and Gaffneys. The Tammany men secured control of the Board of Aldermen and voted in favor of electing John T. McCall chairman of the Finance Committee in place of Herbert Parsons, who for fifteen months has acceptably served as chairman of that committee.

The chairmanship of the Finance Committee carries with it, under the charter, membership in the Sinking Fund Commission. That commission has the leasing of all the piers and dumping board privileges. The Sinking Fund Board has backed up Commissioner Hawkes in trying to cancel some of these old Tammany Dock Board leases and permits. Charles F. Murphy ran the old Dock Board pretty much as he liked. Four days before the old Dock Board went out of office Charles F. Murphy and his fellow commissioners, J. Sergeant Cram and Peter F. Meyer, Richard Croker's business partner at that time, leased to John J. Murphy and E. I. Gaffney (supposed to be a dummy for Alderman James E. Gaffney, of Murphy's district) the exceedingly valuable pier and dumping board at Ninety-sixth-st. and North River for thirty years. The lease is divided into three terms, as follows:

First ten years, a year	$3,600
Second ten years, a year	3,780
Third ten years, a year	3,969

The Commissioners of Accounts put inspectors on these piers and found that for three successive days they yielded a net income to the lessees of about $220 a day. It is estimated that the city lost $500,000 on this lease.

John J. Murphy and E. I. Gaffney also have a lease of the pier at Seventy-ninth-st. and North River, almost equally productive.

MURPHY CAN WATCH THE BOARD.

Corporation Counsel Rives has begun an action on the grounds of conspiracy and fraud, to cancel the lease of the West Twenty-ninth-st. bulkhead, to Joseph Egan, which was awarded under much the same conditions as surrounded the award of the Murphy-Gaffney leases. With John T. McCall in the Sinking Fund in the place of Herbert Parsons, Murphy will be able to keep tab on what is going on and will be in a strategic position to mandamus the Sinking Fund Board and prevent it from transacting business.

After evading questions concerning his relations with Joseph Egan, Thomas C. O'Sullivan yesterday made his official appearance as counsel to Joseph Egan, and asked for a copy of the complaint, published in The Tribune on May 7. Mr. O'Sullivan is counsel for Charles F. Murphy, John J. Murphy and E. I. Gaffney.

If Murphy and his friends can get McCall into the Sinking Fund Commission, made up now of Mayor Low, Controller Grout, City Chamberlain Gould, President Fornes and Alderman Parsons, they will stand a good chance of postponing action on the validity of the questionable old Dock Board leases until Tammany comes back to power. Thomas C. O'Sullivan is slated to be the next Corporation Counsel if Tammany wins next fall.

The Murphyites are getting scared. Things are not going right with them. Devery will hold forth to-morrow night and will make his attack on the old Dock Board leases the feature of his speech. The testing of the Egan lease will bring to the stand all of the old Dock Commissioners, William H. Burke, former secretary of the board; George W. Plunkitt, John F. Carroll and others.

"Who is John J. Murphy's partner, E. I. Gaffney?" Alderman James E. Gaffney was asked last night by a Tribune reporter.

E. I. GAFFNEY STILL A MYSTERY.

"Who is E. I. Gaffney?" repeated the alderman, with a bland smile. "What do you want to know for? That's something for Commissioner Hawkes to find out. E. I. Gaffney is a close friend of mine, and when the time comes he will stand the daylight all right. Mr. Hawkes thinks he is going to burst those leases of the New-York Contracting and Trucking Company. Those leases will stand the test of the courts."

Alderman Parsons is going to fight for retention of the chairmanship of the Finance Committee.

"I was appointed chairman of the committee by the president of the board," said he last night. "I am a charter officer, and as such I do not believe that after serving as chairman of the committee and as a member of the Sinking Fund Commission for the last fourteen or fifteen months a purely political move in the Finance Committee can result in my removal from the chairmanship. I shall fight the matter. I think it will be hard for the other fellow to get in. I already am in."

DANGER IN TRADE WAR.

Union Against America Strongly Opposed at Vienna.

Vienna, May 19.—Addressing a conference of the Austrian Agricultural Society and the Central Association of Manufacturers to-day upon the formation of an economical union of the Middle European States, Professor Julius Wolf, of the Breslau University, referred to the proposal for an inter-European union against Great Britain and America submitted to the International Agricultural Congress at Rome by Count von Schwerin-Löwitz on April 18. Professor Wolf did not support the proposal because, he said, Europe feared nothing from Great Britain agriculturally or industrially, but from the United States everything. He advocated that there be no differential treatment of the United States and no unnecessary provocations, but merely the same treatment of the United States as the latter gave to Europe.

In the discussion following Professor Wolf's address the speakers generally deprecated the idea of attempting to form such a union against America. A prominent manufacturer, Herr Kuffler, asserted that even the whole of Europe could not successfully combine against the United States except by force of arms. By shutting off her exports of cotton, for instance, said Herr Kuffler, the United States could paralyze the European industries.

THE TRANSCONTINENTAL LINE of America is the New York Central, connecting, by every great gateway, the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts.—(Advt.

BOARD TAKES OFF MASK.

Mr. Meyers Says Tammany Has Controlled It for a Year.

Alderman Dowling, of the IXth District, elected on the fusion ticket in 1901, with his fusion colleagues, Florence, Bill, Goldwater and Malone, voted yesterday with the Tammany aldermen and passed a resolution electing John T. McCall chairman of the Finance Committee, in place of Herbert Parsons, who has since the organization of the board been chairman, and, accordingly, a member of the Sinking Fund Commission. As stated elsewhere in The Tribune, Parsons will fight to retain his place, and McCall will be recognized only after a decision by the courts that the action of the aldermen yesterday was legal. The vote in the board yesterday followed a meeting of the Finance Committee. Florence and Bill, fusion Democrats, were put on this committee through the courtesy of President Fornes, although it was against the political judgment of many of the Republicans. They rewarded Mr. Fornes's kindness yesterday by betraying their trust. Bill apparently was so ashamed of his conduct that he did not attend the meeting of the board.

Soon after the board meeting began the Finance Committee went into executive session in the committee room. Those present were Aldermen Parsons, Longfellow, McInnes, James, Bill, McCall, Gaffney, Florence and Sullivan. Alderman Sullivan complained of dilatory tactics by Chairman Parsons, and moved that a new chairman be appointed in his place. Chairman Parsons would not allow a rollcall, whereupon Alderman Gaffney moved that Chairman Parsons be re-elected. Believing that Gaffney would vote for him, Chairman Parsons called the roll; but when the votes were counted it was found that the Tammany members had voted for John T. McCall, a Tammany alderman, and two fusion votes, those of Florence and Bill, were cast also for McCall. This elected the Tammany leader chairman and deposed Parsons.

Alderman Sullivan, in open board, offered a resolution that John T. McCall be recognized as chairman of the Finance Committee. He said the action taken by the committee must not be taken as any reflection upon Alderman Parsons, who was named as chairman when the president of the board named the Finance Committee fifteen months ago.

SAID COMMITTEE HAD NEVER ORGANIZED.

"The Finance Committee, a majority of it, met just now," Mr. Sullivan said, "and decided to organize. The committee, although it has been working for fifteen months, had never organized. We met and organized, and elected John T. McCall as chairman. The action was taken irrespective of politics or party affiliation."

Mr. Parsons protested against the action of the committee and declared it illegal.

"This is a matter of the greatest importance to this board and to the general public," Mr. Cantor said. "The chairman of the Finance Committee is a member of the Sinking Fund Commission, and it is a matter of great concern to the city to know if a member of the commission, which has the custody of the city's property and makes leases for the city, is legally a member of that commission."

President Fornes ruled the resolution out of order. Alderman Sullivan declared his intention to appeal from the ruling. The Tammany aldermen argued that committees had the legal right to elect their own chairmen. Alderman Doull quoted Section 41 of "Cushing's Manual" to show the justice of Alderman Sullivan's contention.

Aldermen Peck and Wirth argued that Mr. Parsons's record for the last fifteen months made it unfair to depose him. Mr. Swanstrom moved that the matter lay over for a week and that the Corporation Counsel be asked to give an opinion as to the legality of McCall's election.

THE PRESIDENT OVERRULED.

Rollcall was taken on the appeal from the president's decision that the original resolution was out of order. Rollcall showed the president overruled by 41 votes to 30. Mr. Fornes declined to vote and announced his protest against the result.

Mr. Goodman argued that Mr. McCall could not be elected chairman of the Finance Committee because the place was not vacant.

Alderman Wirth demanded the reason for the action taken by the Finance Committee, and Alderman Sullivan declined to answer a question "so ridiculous." He accused the alderman of resorting to dilatory tactics, and President Fornes denied there was any such intention.

"Now, if the president will only meet the questions as they come up," Mr. Sullivan said, "and not try to be the whole Board of Aldermen, we will get along without so much waste of time. This is a situation that has to be faced, and we had better face it at once. I move the original resolution."

Mr. Fornes ruled the resolution out of order, and again an appeal was taken from his decision. It was sustained this time by 41 to 22.

Immediately Mr. Sullivan moved the original resolution and a dozen others moved an adjournment. The motion to adjourn was withdrawn and Alderman Meyers got the floor.

"I have refrained from taking any part in the parliamentary battle," he said, "and as far as the complete reorganization of this board is concerned, I have been waiting a year for the other side to take the responsibility. This has been a Tammany board for more than a year. Now, I challenge them to remove the vice-chairman, the heads of the committees and the sergeant-at-arms. I am tired of this hollow mockery and" (turning to the Democratic side of the house) "if you think you can get any political capital out of the board between now and the election you are welcome to it. It was your interference with public improvements that led to the action of the State legislature. The board has not enough power left to count for anything. I am glad the time has come that the people may understand that when the majority of this board speaks it is Tammany talking. I want the people to know that it was President Haffen and his friends who defeated the important franchise for the Macomb's Dam Bridge tracks." (There were cries of "Out of order!" but Mr. Myers went on.) "To-day we have seen the vote cast for Tammany of all the fusion Democrats and of one enrolled Republican. The borough presidents stood loyally. I shall vote against the resolution, of course, but in my heart I hope it will prevail."

DOWLING AGAINST HIGH LICENSE.

"I desire to say," Alderman Dowling shouted, "that I have been as true to this administration as any Republican in it, and my record proves it. I have the greatest respect for Alderman Parsons, but when it comes to drawing party lines I am against high license and other outrages, and I stand with the Democrats every time."

"This action," Alderman Doull said, "is a very natural condemnation by the Board of Aldermen of all the actions of Mayor Low. He has not represented the people or recognized this board. He has done all he could to shame and humiliate the board. All his acts have shown his sympathy for the railroad interests and his intention to ignore the wishes of the people. One safeguard must be placed about the power of appropriation for the rest of the year."

Sullivan's resolution was adopted by 49 to 30. Aldermen Howland, Longfellow and Parsons declined to vote. The lineup was as follows: Affirmative—Aldermen Baldwin, Brenner, Bridges, Chamberlin, Coggey, Culkin, Dietz, Donahue, Doull, Dowling, Florence, Foley, Gaffney, Gass, Gillen, Gillies, Goldwater, Haggerty, Harburger, Harnischfeger, Higgins, Keely, Kennedy, Kenney, Lundy, McCall, McCarthy, Malone, Marks, Metzger, Nehrbauer, Owens, Porges, Richter, Schappert, Sullivan, Twomey, Wafer, Borough President Cassidy of Queens and Borough President Haffen of The Bronx. Negative—Aldermen McInnes, Alt, Behrman, Bennett, Dickinson, Diemer, Downing, Goodman, Holler, James, Jones, Klett, Leitner, Maloy, Matthews, Meyers, Oatman, Peck, Seebeck, Shea, Stewart, Tibbetts, Ware, Wentz, Whitaker, Willett, Wirth and Borough Presidents Cromwell of Richmond, Swanstrom of Brooklyn and Cantor of Manhattan. The fusion aldermen who voted with the Democrats were Dowling, Malone, Lundy and Florence.

The Gregorian Hotel, 35th St., between 5th Ave. and Herald Square; a delightful city summer home. —Advt.

PRESIDENT PALMA AT HIS DESK IN THE PALACE, HAVANA.
He is receiving congratulations to-day on the completion of Cuba's first year of independence.
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MAY COST $600,000 MORE.

CORE WALLS ON SAND.

Engineers Consider Solid Masonry for Jerome Park Reservoir.

There is a strong probability that the core walls in the Jerome Park Reservoir will be replaced with solid masonry reaching to a rock foundation. The change will cost about $400,000. Another change that probably will have to be made would give a thicker concrete "floor" to the bed of the reservoir. The present plans call for a three inch concrete lining or flooring for the reservoir. This, in the opinion of Chief Engineer Hill, of the Aqueduct Commission, and of Chief Engineer McLean, of the Finance Department, is inadequate. It is understood that both Messrs. Hill and McLean are inclined to favor an eight inch lining for the bottom of the reservoir. This change will involve an expenditure of about $217,000, and the end is not yet.

The work on the Jerome Park Reservoir is in a most unusual condition on account of a difference of opinion about the stability of the walls and the concrete bottom. A Tribune reporter was informed yesterday that before the reservoir is finished it will prove to be the most expensive one in the world, and that it is doubtful if it will hold water satisfactorily at that.

THE MOST EXPENSIVE LOCATION.

"There are fundamental difficulties surrounding the construction of the reservoir that make the situation a most unusual one," said The Tribune's informant. "To begin with, the location of the reservoir is about the most expensive that could have been selected. A site was picked out containing a sandy bottom. Some of the engineers maintain that this is quicksand, and that it is useless to complete the reservoir walls on the present plans. Several sections of the main wall rest on a sandy foundation. There is sand to a depth of twenty feet below the bottom of the wall, before the rock is reached. The rock is of a porous character, without regular strata, and there is a strong probability that if the wall is put clear down to this rock the rock will prove to be porous and the water will get through. If the sand proves to be quicksand the wall will have to come out anyway. A commission consisting of J. J. Croes, Edwin Smith and Elnathan Sweet several years ago reported that the wall on the sand would answer the purpose. With the approach of the completion of the contract by McDonald & Onderdonk there has been criticism of those sections of the walls that rest on the sand. Recently engineers put down wells on either side of the main wall of the dam where it rested on the sand. When the water was pumped out of one of the wells it was noticed that the water also fell in the other well, indicating that the ground is porous and that apparently water oozed from one well to the other under the wall.

"Not long ago the Aqueduct Commission seemed to get nervous over the question of the trustworthiness of the walls, and prevailed on the city officials to call in the Commissioners on Additional Water Supply, William H. Burr, Rudolph Hering and John R. Freeman. Chief Engineer Nicholas Hill, of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, and Chief Engineer Lewis, of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, were likewise drafted into service. Some of these engineers will be in conference to-day, and a series of exhaustive well tests will immediately be begun. These wells will be driven on both sides of the walls, which rest on sand, and water will be forced down into them and pumped out of them, while at the same time observations will be made to ascertain if the water probably passes from one well to another through the sand."

MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION MAY ACT.

The Merchants' Association has looked with an unfriendly eye at the work of the Aqueduct Commission in connection with the Jerome Park Reservoir. It is understood that the association will at once question the need of thickening the concrete in the bottom of the reservoir. It is said that McDonald & Onderdonk have a large quantity of rock on the spot ready for crushing for concrete work. It is asserted by the contractors that the loose rock they have on the ground would not be used in the concrete work to a large extent.

TO APPEAL TO PRESIDENT.

Mayor Low Not Satisfied with Adverse Report on Piers.

Mayor Low and Dock Commissioner Hawkes doubtless will appeal to President Roosevelt in behalf of the shipping interests of this city in requesting that the pier line be extended 200 feet on the North River, so as to permit the building of piers 1,000 feet long.

General Gillespie has just made his report to Assistant Secretary Sanger, and it is adverse to the further extension of the piers. General Gillespie says that formerly the river was 4,000 feet wide at the point between Twenty-third and Fourteenth sts., where the extension is desired, and that on account of the building of piers of great length the width of the river now is only 2,400 feet.

Mayor Low was in conference with Dock Commissioner Hawkes yesterday. He will not let the matter rest with the ruling of General Gillespie.

ALL IN RUSSIA'S POWER.

MANCHURIA NOT OPEN.

China Yields to All Demands Made by the Czar.

London, May 20.—According to a Peking dispatch to "The Times," dated May 19, the situation at New-Chwang and in Manchuria, in spite of proclamations and assurances, is unchanged. There is a constant flow of Russians and war material to both the Chinese and Corean banks of the Yalu River. Trustworthy evidence, says the dispatch, confirms the truth of the report that numbers of Chinese described as former brigands are officered by Russians. They number at least two thousand, and carry a badge inscribed "Protectors of the Forest."

Reviewing the Manchuria situation and commenting on the apathy of the Powers, "The Times" correspondent avers that China is agreeing one by one to all the demands presented by M. Plançon, the Russian Charge d'Affaires, which she pretended to reject in their entirety. She has already undertaken not to alienate any portion of Manchuria to any other Power, not to alter the present administration in Mongolia, not to open any new treaty ports in Manchuria, and has given an assurance not to employ foreigners in the administration of Manchuria, and whether China gives her consent or not Russia retains the telegraph line between Port Arthur and Mukden. China has also agreed that Russia shall have full control of the customs at New-Chwang, and there is little doubt that an agreement exists giving Russia exclusive mining rights in the Mukden province.

When Manchuria is gone what security will there be, asks the correspondent, for the position of the Japanese in Corea, military or civil? Does any one know what secret agreements were signed by the Emperor of Corea during the year he resided as a refugee in the Russian Legation at Seoul?

The correspondent asserts that on April 23 M. Plançon handed to United States Minister Conger an official copy of the Russian demands on China in the original Russian, written in his own hand.

UNITED STATES FIRM.

Will Insist to the End on Equal Trade Privileges in Manchuria.

Washington, May 19.—Regardless of the outcome of the present negotiations respecting the political domination of Manchuria, it can be stated that this government is prepared to insist to the end on commercial privileges for United States merchants in Manchuria equal to those enjoyed by the merchants of other nations, Russia included.

The State Department has had pledges from Russia that, even in the event of Manchuria passing under Russian control, our commerce and trade privileges should not suffer, and it will hold that our commerce would suffer if Russian goods can enter Manchuria free while United States goods are forced to pay duty.

This attitude of the State Department will, it is believed, go far toward reassuring the Southern cotton interests, which have become alarmed at the possible loss of their very best market.

GREAT BRITAIN'S TERMS TO CHINA.

The Same as Those Accepted by the United States.

Washington, May 19.—Great Britain has decided to accord to China the same terms in the settlement of the Boxer indemnity as those accepted by the United States. The State Department has been informed that the English Chargé d'Affaires at Peking has signified the willingness of his government to accept payment on a silver basis for a term of years, reserving under bond the right to receive payment of any deficiency that might exist should it hereafter be decided that the payments should have been made on a gold basis. This greatly strengthens the attitude of the United States, which had been almost single handed in its fight for the payment of the indemnity on a silver basis.

A PROTEST FROM COREA.

London, May 20.—"The Times's" Tokio correspondent asserts that the Russians are apparently trying to establish a settlement at Yongampho, which is situated southwest of Wiju, Corea, and commands the mouth of the Yalu River. Yongampho, he says, is capable of conversion into a good harbor. The Russians' pretext is that they require the place for shipping timber from the forests of Dengma, a mountain which the Coreans declare is not included in the timber concession to the Russians. The Corean government has strongly protested against the purchase of land at Yongampho by the Russians.

ONE YEAR OF FREEDOM.

CUBA'S ANNIVERSARY.

Good Government, Temperate Views and Growing Prosperity Shown.

The Republic of Cuba is one year old to-day. There is not in the history of a single Latin-American country a favorable comparison with the auspicuous circumstances under which free Cuba observes the first anniversary of her birth. Her career for the initial year fully justifies the terse summing up of a member of the United States Congress who recently returned from the island. He said: "Cuba has disappointed her enemies and more than gratified her friends."

Those jealous of the indisputable success of the Cuban Government cannot attribute it to any kindly or charitable assistance from the United States. It is true that this country is in large measure responsible for the independence of Cuba, and for the sovereignty of the country the Cubans are indebted to the magnanimity of the United States, but for the progress made since Cuba took its place among nations a year ago and the success with which the government has been organized and maintained the Cuban people deserve all credit. Cuba is to-day stronger financially and physically than her most sanguine friends predicted. Politically, the country is cleaner than ever in its history. All this has been accomplished without outside aid. Cuba, it may be said, has most successfully survived what many have termed the critical period.

On May 20, 1902, when General Tomas Estrada Palma was inaugurated in Havana as President of the new republic there were many who predicted a short and bitter career for the Cuban Government. Wagers were freely offered that Cuba, within a year, even before six months, would be annexed to the United States. Civic strife, financial disaster, commercial retrogression and incapacity for self-government were advanced as some of the probable causes that would make a failure of the undertaking. None of these have befallen the young republic, which, although still in its swaddling clothes, presents a record of which it can be justly proud.

GREAT INCREASE IN SURPLUS.

When General Leonard Wood, Military Governor of Cuba, turned the island over to the Cubans there was in the treasury $540,000, from which some debts had to be settled. The last report issued by the Secretary of Finance shows $2,609,000 to the credit of the government, after all current expenses have been paid. The educational and sanitary departments—both very important in Cuba—have not only been kept up to the standard established by the American authorities, but the facilities of the former have been increased and the latter is as efficient as when Major W. A. Gorgas was in charge of the work.

Peace and public order have been most admirably maintained. There was really only one occasion that demanded a resort to force for the maintenance of order. That was in Havana at the time of the strike riots last November. Some enemies of the republic saw in these an opportunity of starting an agitation for intervention in the affairs of Cuba, by announcing that these riots were anti-American demonstrations. There was not the slightest excuse for these reports, for the outbreak was nothing more than occurs in this country in time of strikes. It had no political significance. The quick and determined action taken by the government in suppressing the disorder, and the readiness with which the rioters bowed before the law speak well for both, and are a proof to the world that the Cubans are not only capable of administering the law, but are a law-abiding people.

Brigandage, which even the military government failed to stamp out, has been effectually checked by the rural guard, a very capable military police organization.

PALMA'S GOOD GUIDANCE.

President Palma has reconciled nearly everyone of his former political opponents by his firmness, tenacity of purpose, honesty, patriotism and his intelligent administration of the affairs of state. The chief executive controls the Senate without dominating it. He is the able advisor of that body and even Senator Manuel Sanguilly, who, in the first days of the republic, was the chief obstructionist, now assumes a more respectful attitude toward the President. The Republicans have a safe working majority in this branch of the legislature. In the House of Representatives, where the Nationalists, with the support of the Radicals, predominate, President Palma has not so much influence, but he has there strong support from the best element, and with the ever changing atmosphere in the House he will probably control that branch soon.

Much of the credit for the good showing which Cuba makes is attributed, and properly so, to President Palma. He has filled most successfully the office which he accepted only because as a Cuban and a patriot he believed it to be his duty.

Economy has been the watchword in the appropriation of government funds, and the financial conditions prove how well it has been adhered to.

WORK OF SENATE AND HOUSE.

Even without taking into consideration that those who constitute the Cuban Legislature have had no previous experience in the science of government, they have done remarkably well and deserve the praise of their people. The Senate and House have worked slowly, but have accomplished much, notwithstanding all the delays. The most important measures passed were the reciprocity treaty, the $35,000,000 Loan bill and the Tariff bill.

One of the mistakes made by the Cuban Congress was the repeal of several orders and decrees issued by Governor Wood without first inquiring into the reasons for their existence. Some of the members have attacked President Palma and the Platt amendment, but the President has triumphed and is more popular than when he was inaugurated, which is a great deal in a Latin republic, and the Platt amendment is as firmly embodied in the Cuban Constitution as it ever was. The attacks on it have tended only to bring out more forcibly that it stands as a guarantee for the permanent peace and welfare of Cuba. Despite the froth and fume, the wisest counsel has always prevailed, and not one serious mistake can be charged against the Cuban Congress.

FITNESS OF APPOINTEES.

President Palma has proved his good judgment by the appointments he has made to the high government offices. In nearly every instance he selected those best qualified for their respective places, regardless of their political affiliations. This applies also to the members of the diplomatic and consular corps, which have been established within the year. Every department of government, with the exception of the Postoffice, has been ably conducted, without any lavish or unnecessary expenditure of money. Improvements in public works, under

Continued on second page.

RAIN PREDICTED TO-DAY.

COOL WEATHER PROMISED

It Won't Be any Too Soon to Save the Parched Vegetation.

The Weather Bureau last night in its forecast made the welcome announcement that there would be rain in this city and district to-day and to-morrow. The official forecaster said that New-Yorkers would not suffer any more from heat. The rain, he declared, would make it cooler. His instruments indicated a downpour and a fall in the temperature.

The temperature went up higher yesterday than it had been on May 19 for twenty-six years. Not before since May 19, 1877, had the heat been as intense as 88 degrees Fahrenheit, around New-York. That day it was 90 degrees. Yesterday was the hottest day of the year. The thermometer recorded 88 degrees at 3 p. m. This was one degree hotter than the temperature of the day preceding.

This rain, if it comes, will do something to revive vegetation, especially grass and grain, which, according to dispatches to The Tribune, are in sore need. A fall of rain would greatly relieve the anxiety of the officials of the Department of Parks, who, for the last few days have been exercised over the condition of the lawns in the parks. They have not been permanently injured, but rain is urgently needed to coat the brown expanses with a soft green.

Four persons were overcome by heat in different parts of the city yesterday. Mrs. Fannie Sperry, twenty-six years old, of No. 324 East Forty-eighth-st., committed suicide by drinking acid, it was believed because of the heat. She died as she was being taken to the Flower Hospital. She had been in delicate health.

Many straw hats were seen in the streets yesterday, and along the river front many men and boys opened the swimming season. Tents were erected on the lawn at Bellevue Hospital, facing the river, for the first time in four years, for the care of children and infants during the summer. The tents will have floors of wood.

CEREALS SUFFER ALL OVER STATE.

An Early Rainfall Necessary to Save Them—Pastures Drying Up.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Albany, May 19.—George L. Flanders, the First Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, said to-day that the drouth extended all over the State. "Grass is suffering," he added, "and the cereals put in this spring, corn, wheat and oats; but I think the rye planted last fall is in good shape. Any continuance of the drouth would endanger the cereals I have mentioned, and also vegetables, but I do not think the situation is yet serious."

Elliot R. Norris, Master of the State Grange, who lives in Wayne County and was here to-day, said: "The drouth is serious in Central New-York. Grass seems to be in good condition, but rye is turning yellow and wheat on dry ground also is turning yellow."

Farmers of Albany County here to-day said that their crops were suffering because of the lack of rain, and yet were in better condition than they had expected, owing to the dew at night.

A. F. Sims, head of the United States Weather Bureau here, said that the total rainfall for the nineteen days of May had been only eight one-hundredths of an inch, which is much below the normal for the month.

WESTERN NEW-YORK'S SORRY PLIGHT

Crops Are Baked and Prices of Vegetables Soar—Scarcity of Milk.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Buffalo, May 19.—With the exception of a brief shower that barely wet the surface of the ground last week, Western New-York has been practically without rain for about one month, and the crop conditions are serious in the extreme. Farmers in this section of the State predict ruin as far as vegetables are concerned, and already complaint is made that wheat and other grains are suffering and that seeding has been retarded to an alarming extent. Cows are being fed on grain. Streams are almost dried up, and there is no pasturage. Milkmen threatened to raise the price of milk in Buffalo, and grocers, who are charging high rates for vegetables, declare that they are unable to supply the demand. Special prayer services for rain have been held in some of the city churches, and in all the country churches in this section next Sunday similar services will be held. The earth is so dry that several days of continuous rain will not be too much to restore normal conditions. The fruit crop can do without rain for about one week more.

FRUIT GROWERS' LOSS HEAVY.

Thousands of Dollars Lost in Delaware—Whole Fields Dying.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Dover, Del., May 19.—The drouth of the last five weeks in this locality has so damaged early fruit and other vegetables that farmers and fruit growers are much alarmed. Already thousands of dollars have been lost by the early fruit growers, as their strawberries and like fruits are dying for the want of rain. Wheat and clover are also suffering, and the crop of wheat alone will be damaged to the extent of thousands of dollars unless there is speedy relief. The public highways are almost impassable, as the dust rises in such clouds that travel is dangerous.

In some sections improvised sprinkling apparatuses are put in service to save the crops from total failure. In Sussex County, where much of the early fruit is grown, whole fields are dying for the want to rain.

PASTORS PRAY FOR RAIN.

Streams Running Dry in Northern New-York—Dairy Interests Suffer.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Ogdensburg, N. Y., May 19.—The drouth situation in this county is growing worse each day. Sunday the pastors in the different churches of this city and in the churches of surrounding towns prayed for rain, which is greatly needed, but as yet there are no signs of a shower. The Oswegatchie River is lower than it has ever been before at this time of the year, and the river bed is dry in some places. Other smaller streams are entirely dry. Farmers are becoming discouraged at the absence of rain, and are compelled to use pails for watering their crops, which are on the verge of burning up. A few more days of drouth will work inestimable damage to the dairy interests of St. Lawrence County. The ground is dry and hard, and strawberries are blighted. The grass in some places is beginning to brown and wither, and grain has not sprouted.

PRICES OF DAIRY PRODUCTS UP.

No Rain in Western New-York for Six Weeks—Situation Alarming.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Rochester, May 19.—The drouth situation in this part of Western New-York has reached an acute stage, and if rain does not fall by the end of this week the outlook for the farmers will be precarious. Not a drop of moisture has been precipitated here for more than six weeks, and the ground is baked like a brick for a depth of eight inches. The Tribune correspondent rode through the country about this city last Sunday, and found the leaves hanging on the trees limp and curly and the grass beginning to look brown