

MAYOR HITS AT GAS TRUST. ASKS NEW WATER SUPPLY. City's Debt Incurring Capacity Now \$86,000,000.

Mayor McClellan's annual message, sent to the Board of Aldermen yesterday, among other things recommends a municipal lighting plant and a new commission, with full authority to proceed with the work of increasing the city's water supply in all the boroughs, and the Mayor indorses the recommendation of the Controller to the effect that the legislature be asked for authority to issue corporate stock to cover a deficiency of about \$22,000,000, due to uncollectible personal taxes. He finds the debt incurring capacity of the city to be \$86,000,000.

The sergeants-at-arms had a hard job getting a quorum of the City Fathers to the City Hall, despite the fact that it would have been a pleasure for the Board of Aldermen to have failed to meet. John H. O'Brien, the Mayor's secretary, delivered the message to Michael F. Blake, the reading clerk, who turned it over to City Clerk Scully, who in turn handed it to President Fornes. In a twinkling a motion was adopted to refer the message to the appropriate committee, and then the aldermen scattered with a far greater degree of alacrity than they gathered.

Considerable surprise was manifested over the failure of the Mayor to explain the increase of about \$7,000,000 in the funded debt. Taxpayers generally were aware of large expenditures by the city in the last twelve months, but few are prepared for the figures presented by the Mayor, as received from the Controller. The increase in the funded debt in 1904, the last year of the Low administration, was \$2,000,000. The Tammany administration almost exactly tripled this, the exact figures being \$56,756,678 45.

Table with 2 columns: Description of debt items and Amount. Includes items like 'Some of the larger items of the increases were \$10,000,000 for bridges, \$12,000,000 for schools, \$7,000,000 for docks and about \$10,000,000 for rapid transit purposes.' Total amount: \$56,756,678 45.

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CITY'S DEBT INCURRING CAPACITY. Using the Controller's figures, the Mayor says: The condition of the city's finances in relation to the borrowing capacity or margin for incurring further indebtedness, on October 1, 1904, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Description of financial items and Amount. Includes 'Ten per cent of the assessed valuation of real estate for the year 1904' at \$501,546,877 90 and 'Total amount of bonded indebtedness' at \$308,442,856 90.

MARGIN OF EXCESS OF 10 PER CENT OF ASSESSED VALUATION OVER DEBT. From this margin or excess must be deducted the revenue from the assessed taxes in 1902, outstanding October 1, 1904, \$30,000,000. Balance of excess of 10 per cent of assessed valuation over debt, \$418,886,820 90.

From a report made to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment by the Controller in December, 1904, it may be reckoned that the normal increase per annum of the city's borrowing capacity will be between \$10,000,000 and \$25,000,000. It is the policy to keep the issue of obligations for ordinary requirements within this limit, and to reserve the present existing surplus for the most important public works as water supply and rapid transit.

The solution of this problem will become more difficult with each year's delay. Nor are the physical questions to be met in a day. Expenditures now to secure our supply will, I feel confident, be regarded as judicious and economical investment when the city of four millions shall have attained ten million inhabitants.

Recently the Board of Estimate and Apportionment received from the Commissioner of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity a report, predicated on the findings of the Burr Water Commission, recommending the adoption of a plan for acquiring waterworks, including aqueducts and mains, roughly estimated to cost \$80,000,000. The report was committed to the three experts, Messrs. Burr, Freeman and Herring, who have previously made an exhaustive examination into the question in the interests of the city, and their opinions on the recommendation of the Commission will be delivered to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment some time this month.

The act creating this commission should enable it to so plan its work as to utilize the energy that may be developed from the water power. Situated are at the disadvantage of taking our supply from distant watersheds and piping it down from the higher levels up-Street, the water should be able to earn its own passage. Experts have estimated that many millions of horsepower may thus be created and put to many uses to bring revenue to the city. Only an insignificant part of this power, for example, would be needed to provide the energy to light the city with electricity.

TO SHOW GAS COLLUSION. Resolution Goes to Legislature Next Week—Other Early Bills. (BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.) Albany, Jan. 2.—The resolution providing for the investigation of the recent gas contracts of Commissioner Oakley, of New-York City, which has been drawn by the Merchants' Association, will not be introduced this week, as has been announced; it will not come up until the legislature meets for business next week.

TO END RAINES HOTELS. Prominent New-York Republicans to Meet Higgins To-day. (BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.) Albany, Jan. 2.—There will be an important executive conference to-morrow, which will call to the attention of Governor Higgins the precise workings of the Raines law hotels in New-York City. The conference will be attended by several prominent Republicans of New-York and they will recommend to the Governor a drastic eradication of the hotel features of the present Raines law.

Until Governor Higgins's Message Is Read a Forecast Is Impossible. (BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.) Albany, Jan. 2.—The discussion of the probable length of the session was general among the groups of legislators at the Capitol to-day, and, while no one cared to give a definite prophecy, there was a prevailing opinion that the session would be short. The absence of any evident legislation of first importance was generally assigned as the reason for this belief.

SHAMS COMA, THEY SAY. Former Rough Rider, Suspected Burglar, Taken from Hospital. Although four physicians have declared that Frank Powers, alias Arthur Determan, who fought in the Rough Riders, but who is suspected of committing a score of burglaries in Mount Vernon, is shamming insensibility, he still remains apparently unconscious. Every effort to arouse Powers has failed. Yesterday afternoon he was discharged from the Mount Vernon Hospital and removed to the Mount Vernon police station, where he lies motionless and refuses to take nourishment.

MEETING IN MEMORY OF S. M. JONES. The People's Institute, in the lifetime of the late Samuel M. Jones, Mayor of Toledo, arranged for a meeting in Cooper Union on January 8, at which he was to speak. The meeting, it was learned yesterday, is to be made a memorial for him. The various labor unions have been informed of the memorial meeting, and asked to send delegations to it. It is stated that already existing unions had appointed delegates to the meeting.

TEACH THE CHILDREN. SODZODONT toothpaste makes the toothbrush lesson easy. SODZODONT is a fragrant liquid cleanser, penetrating the little crevices of the teeth it purifies them.

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TIFFANY & Co. Pottery and Glass Department. Special Sale. In anticipation of removal, Tiffany & Co. have marked at greatly reduced prices a large part of their rich stock of plates, cups and saucers, carved, cut and gilded glass, novelties, etc.

FORM OF CANAL CONTRACT Still Undecided—Board Said to Favor Item Contract. (BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.) Albany, Jan. 2.—It was learned to-day that the discussion of the relative merits of the lump sum and item form of contract for the 1,000-ton barge canal, exclusively told by The Tribune, is still undecided, although a majority of the Canal Board incline toward the item contract despite a large amount of criticism.

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GOVERNOR GETS PRESENTMENT. Jerome Lays Liquor Charges Before Him—Legislature May Investigate. (BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.) Albany, Jan. 2.—The presentment of the grand jury showing the shocking and extensive use of money in the interests of liquor legislation for the corruption of the State Legislature in the last session was to-day put in the hands of Governor Higgins. This was done under the direction of District Attorney Jerome, who not merely had the presentment placed in the Governor's hands, but also a transcript of the testimony of five or six officials of the liquor dealers' organization. This evidence shows not merely that the money was used, but also fixes the sum, not at \$75,000, but at \$15,000, and supplies all the circumstantial details.

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The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States. HENRY R. HYDE, FOUNDER. 120 Broadway, New York. Preliminary Statement, Jan. 1st, 1905.

Table showing financial statement for 1904. Includes: Outstanding Assurance, \$1,500,000,000; Income, 78,000,000; Assets, 410,000,000; Assurance Fund and all other liabilities, 332,000,000; Surplus, 78,000,000; Paid to Policyholders, 37,000,000.

The Amount paid in Dividends to Policyholders was larger than during any previous year in the Society's history. James W. Alexander, President. James H. Hyde, Vice-President. Splendid opportunities for men of energy and character to act as representatives. Write to GAGE E. TARBELL, 2nd Vice-President.

HIGGINS INAUGURATED. REMNANT SALE. Earlier than ever—therefore, better for you than ever. You can have any short length of goods in our regular stock made up into a single or double-breasted suit for \$17. Trousers, \$4.50. What the price used to be doesn't count. ARNHEIM Broadway & Ninth St.

WHISKEY KILLS CHILD. Six-Year-Old Boy Takes Two Drinks and Dies. Two drinks of whiskey taken early in the day caused the death last night of Charles Hedges, six years old, in his parents' home, at No. 235 Broadway-ave. A physician attended the child for seven hours, but could not save his life.

POULTRY SHOW TO-DAY. Cackling Chorus Begins in Madison Square Garden. The poultry show opens this morning at Madison Square Garden, and with it the New-York Poultry, Pigeon and Pet Stock Association will add another to its already long list of exhibitions.

NO INCREASE OF CRIME, HE SAYS. Jerome's Charts Show That Offences by Women Have Decreased in City. District Attorney Jerome said yesterday that he did not believe crime increased in New-York last year. He has been preparing charts that show the fluctuations of crime in the County of New-York, according to the arrests, and they do not bear out the statement that crime is increasing.

PASADENA'S FEAST OF FLOWERS. Los Angeles, Jan. 2.—Under the most auspicious weather conditions imaginable, and in the presence of sixty thousand persons, Pasadena to-day held her celebrated "Feast of Flowers." Pasadena was beautifully arrayed for the occasion, the scheme of floral decorations being carried out throughout the entire city. A series of attractive canopies and triumphal arches embellished the principal parade thoroughfares, through which a big parade passed.