

Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—The Darling of the Gods. AMERICAN—5:15—Daily Croquet. BROADWAY—5:30—The Music Master. BROADWAY—5:30—Benedict Actors' Fund—5:15—Flora.

that never was approximated before on the isthmus, has found that the engineering works necessary to that end are perfectly feasible and involve no novel, untried or even difficult problem, and now he puts himself on record as declaring that the total cost of thus disposing of the Chagres for good and all will not exceed 5 per cent of the cost of the whole canal undertaking.

WATER AND POLITICS.

It is agreeable to know that the Merchants' Association—and, we assume, all other organizations—will withdraw their objections to the Mayor's water bill, and that thus a much needed measure will be hastened to enactment. The objections in question were based upon the fact that the clause providing for the appointment of a non-political or non-partisan commission had been stricken out of the bill.

inflow from the Mediterranean basin. In the last Congress an attempt was made to amend the law by prescribing a certain maximum of admissions, not to be exceeded in any year by any one country. It was suggested that 75,000 or 90,000 would be a fair maximum allowance. But no action was taken, and the total immigration from Austria-Hungary, Italy and Russia this year will evidently outrun last year's figures.

SUING A SOVEREIGN STATE.

A new way has apparently been found to compel a State to pay its debts. Under the federal Constitution, as originally adopted, the Supreme Court was authorized to try, in addition to suits to which the United States was itself a party, suits "between two or more States, between a State and citizens of another State, between citizens of different States, between citizens of the same State claiming lands under grants of different States, and between a State, or the citizens thereof, and foreign States, citizens or subjects."

INDIA'S AFFLICTION.

Rumor says that four-fifths of the native residents of Dharmasala were killed by the earthquake in India this week. The story needs verification, but if it be only half correct, or if the loss of life elsewhere be 200, or 300, the total mortality cannot fall below 2,700, while there is a chance that it may exceed 4,000.

THE FALLEN STAR.

[Old tall hats, it is stated, are being used by East End costermongers as donkey's nosebags. Battered and broken, faded, torn— "Behold me 'neath a donkey's nose, Instead of on his head. Half-filled with damp, inferior hay, A scowling, miserably dressed, and shivering, As travelling commiserator to a private ass and cart.

STREET PLANS AND TENEMENT HOUSES.

A curious illustration of the way "time makes ancient good unaccountable" is to be found in the tenement house districts of Philadelphia. The city is well known for the great depth of its blocks. William Penn in laying it out planned to give each house ample grounds, "so as to give place to gardens . . . such as might be a green country town which might never be burnt and might always be wholesome."

THE IMMIGRATION PROBLEM.

Restrictive legislation has had little effect, apparently, in checking the tide of immigration. More rigid exclusion tests have rid us of certain undesirable. Our doors are closed to defectives, criminals, paupers and contract laborers; but though we have succeeded in raising the level of qualification we have not materially reduced in bulk the raw material which we must assimilate each year and try to fit for citizenship. According to a recent report issued by the Commissioner General of Immigration, the rush of aliens to our ports is steadily increasing.

than that of Philadelphia, and we are, happily, free from the alley. For ordinary houses and business blocks our lots are none too deep, but when it comes to building tenement houses, perhaps a 75-foot lot would be better than a 100-foot lot. Commissions have hitherto reported on the harm done by our narrow lot unit and contrasted our flat and tenement houses with those of Paris, where, we believe, the unit is about thirty-five feet. Obviously the mere widening of the lot unit would make no difference, for either the lots would be sold for separate buildings, or houses would have such interior arrangement as to give the least possible street front for a required floor space.

THE ELSEBERG BILL.

The Elseberg bill looking to the relegation of New-York's Board of Aldermen to Nirvana, or at least to some form of innocuous desuetude, is making progress at Albany. The idea is not without attractiveness to New-Yorkers familiar with the achievements, and particularly the lack of achievements, of that singular body of supposed municipal lawmakers.

EXPLOSIONS IN COAL MINES.

Explosions in coal mines have been lamentably frequent within the last few months, and not all of them can be attributed to "the act of God." Human carelessness is the cause of such calamities oftener than an inscrutable providence.

COMMISSIONER KEATING'S SEVERITY.

Commissioner Keating seems to think that the law forces him to be blind in one eye and not see out of the other, and give a license to run an employment agency to the wife of a bad character as soon as he is forced to revoke the license of the husband. What does the Mayor think about it?

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

The Duke of Fife's mansion in Portman Square, London, where King Edward was recently entertained, was formerly occupied by M. Otho, the French Minister to England at M. Otho, the Peace of Amiens. Of course, the embassy was illuminated in honor of the occasion. Trouble began in the exhibition on the embassy facade of the word "Concord." It was some time before the London School Board, and the man in the street read "Concord" as "conquered," and gave practical expression to his patriotic feelings.

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But, still, it's comforting to know, Although my looks are gone, I'm not as empty as I was, When master had me on! —(London Globe.) A retort of the Japanese Minister to Germany to Count von Bellow is going the rounds of diplomatic society in Berlin. The German Chancellor, who occasionally indulges in light banter, spoke to the Japanese diplomat at a recent dinner in this gay fashion: "You know, Count Inouye, that we Germans are beginning to be quite inordinately proud of the Japanese. You are the most apt pupils we have ever had. You have gathered from us your tactics, your strategy is also German, and so is your artillery. Nearly two decades ago, when you studied in Germany, you have imitated us by inaugurating a social democratic movement in Japan."

DEFENDS MR. ROCKEFELLER'S GIFTS.

To the Editor of The New-York Tribune. Sir: I am a life member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. I appreciate the agitation over the gift of Mr. Rockefeller. Who among us is perfect? Who among us is worthy to give of our substance unto the Lord? The difference between donors is only a difference of degree. Some are nobler in their methods of acquiring, some less noble. Measured by the Divine standard it is not intrinsically that gifts are absolutely unimportant. I do not mean by this that all money is unrighteously acquired. Granting, for the sake of argument, that Mr. Rockefeller is a conspicuously selfish acquirer of wealth, if we are to take money only from those whose worldly goods have been absolutely righteously secured the amount accepted by the recipient institutions (by church also) will be small, indeed, if of any size at all.

About People and Social Incidents.

NEW-YORK SOCIETY.

Mr. and Mrs. Levi P. Morton and Miss Mary Morton have abandoned their intention of spending the summer abroad, and will sail from Europe early next month. Immediately on their arrival here they will go to their place at Rinebeck-on-the-Hudson. Mrs. John E. Cowdin, Mrs. Trenor L. Park, Mrs. C. C. Worthington, Miss Laura Post and Mrs. Howard Mansfield are the patronesses of an entertainment to be given in behalf of the East Third Street Music School Settlement, in the form of the production at the Hudson Theatre, this afternoon, of Browning's "Blot in the Scutcheon," under the direction of Mrs. S. Cowell Le Moine.

Mrs. James E. Martin, who leaves town at the end of the month for her country place at Great Neck, Long Island, gave a large card party yesterday afternoon at her house in 24th-ave. Among those present were Mrs. Henry L. Burnett, Mrs. F. McNeill Bacon, Lady Maitland, Mrs. John E. Roosevelt and Miss Margaret Pierson, as well as Mrs. James E. Martin, Jr.

Mrs. Clarence Mackay will give a large dinner, followed by music, at Harbor Hill, her place at Roslyn, Long Island, on Saturday, April 15, for her mother-in-law, Mrs. John W. Mackay, and the Princess Colonna, who are due here on Thursday.

Mrs. John Jacob Astor has left London for Carlsbad, after placing her son at school in England. She will return to London for the season.

Mrs. Adolf Ladenburg has taken a house in London for the season. She is still at her hunting lodge in Ireland.

News comes from Paris of the engagement of the Count de Beaur, Prince de Chalais, to Mlle. d'Amilly, daughter of the Count and Countess d'Amilly, the former being a well known member of the Jockey Club and owner of a fine stud of horses.

George de Forest Grant's funeral will take place to-morrow morning from his house in Gramercy Park, where he lived for so many years with his brother, Snydam Grant, a bachelor like himself. He was one of the oldest and most popular members of the Union Club, which will be represented at his funeral. His death places in mourning not only a number of people in this country, but likewise his

SHORT TERM FOR MAYOR.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: There are strong reasons for again amending the charter by restoring the four-year term of office for the Mayor, but on the whole, I favor the two-year term.

I am well aware that little can be accomplished in two short years for good as to certain of the larger enterprises of city concern. Nevertheless, a larger enterprise is that brief period for great deal can be effected. If the Mayor is really in earnest good government in the city, he is really in earnest good government in the city.

Our charter fortunately provides for the possibility of heads of departments who will not merely draw their substantial salaries, but labor for the city, remain at their posts, personally supervise the work of their subordinates, and obey no outside influence other than that, possibly, of unselfish public spirited advisers interested in making the administration really serve the people.

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PERSONAL NOTES FROM WASHINGTON.

Washington, April 6.—Mr. Markell Bell, whose marriage to Professor David Fairchild will take place on April 25, entertained a party of girl friends informally at luncheon to-day. Mrs. Gardner G. Hubbard, grandmother of Miss Bell, has opened her country home, Twin Oaks, and the wedding will take place there in the early afternoon and be followed by a reception at the residence.

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Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Lorillard entertained dinner guests this evening. Mr. and Mrs. James D. Layne, Jr., of New-York, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Spencer.

Mrs. McKee and her son, Benjamin, closed their visit to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lee to-day and returned to New-York, where Mrs. McKee has an apartment. Benjamin McKee is attending the preparatory school, Pomona College, and will enter Yale in the fall. Mary Lodge McKee, who was a baby when she visited her grandfather, President Harrison, at the White House, is now a student at Northampton, Mass.

Brigadier General Theodore A. Bingham, retired, who is on a visit to this city, called on a number of friends at the War Department to-day.

Postmaster General Cortelyou has been made the first honorary member of the American Chamber of Commerce, recently organized in Naples.

WOULD MAKE DOUBLE ASSESSMENT.

A. P. W. Kinnaird Tells of Effect of Mortgage Tax. To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: That a tax on mortgages is double taxation, seems to be beyond argument. "A" purchases a house, paying \$20,000, all cash, for the same "B" purchases a \$20,000 house, paying \$10,000 cash and giving back a \$10,000 purchase money mortgage. The assessor places a value of \$20,000 on each house for purposes of annual taxation, which is paid by both "A" and "B." Now, if the \$10,000 mortgage is taxed as against the holder of said mortgage, are not taxes collected on \$20,000 out of a possible value of only \$10,000? The holder of the \$10,000 mortgage will either increase the rate of interest on the mortgage to the extent of the tax or ask that the mortgage be paid off, which will release his money at a higher rate of interest. Now, the borrower must pay the tax on his debt, and the burden will fall upon the one least able to bear it.

THE MORTGAGE TAX UP THE STATE.

What Republican Editors Think of the Bill. DONT. From The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. Are the Republicans in the State Legislature intending to pass the Mortgage Tax bill for the purpose of making the Republican party solid with the rural districts? If so, our advice to them may be given in one word—DONT. For the tax will be indirect, and the burden will fall upon those who are least able to bear it, namely, those whose land is mortgaged; and not touching those who are not mortgaged. The latter may be taxed, but the former will rightly think they are unjustly taxed. A better would be a direct tax on all property alike—no matter whether the land is mortgaged or not. But our friends in the Republican party are trying to make capital for the party. They are going at it in the wrong way.

A "BARBAROUS" LAW.

From The Buffalo Express. Is it just or statesmanlike for the legislature of New York to make the mortgage tax originally laid on been left a debt, with excuse that it will improve the position of the widow who has been left an investment? To suppose the present law is barbarous. But the remedy is to repeal it and make mortgages exempt from taxation, not to enact another barbarous law in its place.

A TAX ON THRIFT.

From The Rochester Post-Express. We have tax on mortgages—a tax on thrift, as we have said, and we have a tax on the widow who has been left an investment. The present law is barbarous. But the remedy is to repeal it and make mortgages exempt from taxation, not to enact another barbarous law in its place.

DOUBLE TAXATION.

From The Buffalo News. Mortgage taxation is double taxation, and it is unjust. The mortgage tax was originally laid on the idea that the man who had money to lend should be taxed, and would himself pay the tax instead of passing the charge on the borrower. It was class legislation. The pending bill is of the same character, and without excuse of sound principle from any point of view.

HOW SOME BORROWERS MAY ESCAPE.

From The Albany Journal. The minimum legal rate of interest in this State is 6 per cent. Most small borrowers of money—the owners of modest homes—pay that now. Anything less than 6 per cent would be usury and unlawful. The one-half 1 per cent cannot be added to what the majority of borrowers have to pay.

PERILS OF INDIRECT TAXES.

From The Syracuse Herald (Ind. Rep.). Easy come, easy go. Indirect taxation has its advantages, but it exerts an evil influence in one direction by tempting the legislator to spend largely the immense revenues it obtains without recourse to its friends in the rural districts. As a result the legislator is tempted to spend largely the immense revenues it obtains without recourse to its friends in the rural districts. As a result the legislator is tempted to spend largely the immense revenues it obtains without recourse to its friends in the rural districts.

DIRECT TAXATION PREFERRED.

From The Troy Record. Whatever may be its fallings, a direct tax certainly acts as a stimulant upon those who attend to the State's business. Under such a tax extravagance shows directly when the tax is levied, and the legislator is tempted to spend largely the immense revenues it obtains without recourse to its friends in the rural districts. As a result the legislator is tempted to spend largely the immense revenues it obtains without recourse to its friends in the rural districts.

FOR THE MENINGITIS COMMISSION.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: S. E. Lyons, N. Y., in a letter to The Tribune on May 2, 1904, referred to two cases of spotted fever in that region—two in one household—in the epidemic of 1872. The letter, in view of the present disagreement among the doctors as to the best mode of treatment, is especially interesting. In regard to the cases referred to the writer said: "One was a girl seventeen, who was treated by one of the best physicians in town. The other was a woman over sixty, who refused to have a doctor, and we gave her a sweat, using hot bricks rolled in wet cloths. Her attack was very severe, but she recovered, and lived several years, and that without any sequence of the disease. The girl died. There were many others whose lives were saved by