New-York Tribune.

VOL. LXV....No. 21,377. To-day, fair. To-morrow, fair and cooler; westerly winds. NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1905.—SIXTEEN PAGES.— Copyright, 1905, by The Tribune Association. PRICE THREE CENTS.

EXPLOSION SCARES MANY.

SHOCK FELT FOR MILES.

Dynamite, Used in Excavating P. R. R. Station, Smashes Windows.

Windows of many houses were smashed, the glasswork of a church was demolished, several pedestrians were thrown off their feet and one woman was so badly scared that she afterward required medical attention, by a terrific explosion which startled those in the neighborhood of the Pennsylvania Tunnel excavation yesterday afternoon. The excavation is bounded by 31st and 33d sts., 7th and 9th aves. and takes in one side of each of these thoroughfares. The New-York Contracting Company (Murphy and Gaffney) is doing the excavating work, and since the work started the company has made its presence felt in the neighborhood on more than one occasion. Every one who could possibly move away from there has already done so, but there are many who could not afford to leave the neighborhood and these suffered from yesterday's explosion. The police were unable definitely to determine the cause of the explosion; but eyewitnesses say that a spark from a draught engine ignited a box of dynamite used for blasting purposes and the dynamite did the rest.

The explosion occurred shortly before 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, as hundreds of children were being dismissed from St. Michael's Parochial School, 9th-ave. and 31st-st. Panic caused them to scatter as a storm of fine stones swept over them. The box of dynamite was at 31st-st., midway between 7th and 9th aves., but so powerful was the explosion that even the windows of the houses on the 33d-st. side of the excavation were shattered. There was not a single window of the row of houses from No. 338 to 366 West 31st-st. which escaped the blast. Nearly every window of St. Michael's Church, at the southwest corner of 9th-ave. and 33d-st., was shattered, as were the windows of the undertaking shop next door and the laundry next door to that. Several persons walking along 31st-st. at the time were thrown to the pavement, and pedestrians on the 7th-ave. side of the excavation were similarly treated. According to the police, nobody was seriously injured. Those living in the 31st-st. houses say that the detonation was so powerful that it threw them off their feet and broke dishes and furniture in their rooms. Miss Dora W. Pope, of No 344 West 31st-st., was on the third floor of her house when the explosion occurred. She says she happened to glance out of the window and saw the big red wooden box catch fire and go up in the air, and then every window of her house broke and she was obliged to catch hold of a dresser to keep from being thrown to the floor. Mrs. Margaret Williamson, an elderly woman, living at No. 358 West 31st-st., was so scared by the accident that she required medical attention.

Shortly after the explosion a small army of glaziers appeared on the scene and, without asking any questions, began replacing the demolished windows. They were led by a man who said his name was Nathan Lyons, and that he was employed by the contracting company to replace panes of glass, free of charge, in houses which suffered by explosions. Those in the neighborhood say that explosions have become so common there since the New-York Contracting Company started to excavate as to cause little alarm. "We are satisfied when they send glaziers to put our windows in," said one. "Our nerves were shattered long ago, and we haven't any furniture that is not already smashed, so future explosions can do us no harm, unless they kill us."

The police of the West 37th-st. station investigated, but could obtain little information. Alderman Gaffney, who was standing at 31st-st. and 9th-ave. shortly after the explosion, was asked by a policeman what had occurred and replied that he did not know.

INJURED IN MIMIC WAR.

Four Trampled on in Charge at Boer Show.

Three men were seriously injured and another may die, after being trampled on in the charge of the New South Wales Lancers and the Highland Brigade at the Boer War spectacle at Brighton Beach last night. They were two cavalrymen and two artillery men. The accident occurred in the second tableau representing the battle of Paardeberg, when more than eight hundred men are on the field. Toward the close of the scene the lancers and Highlanders charge clear across the arena, an ammunition wagon is exploded and the Boers go down fighting before the rush of the English. After the fight is over the nurses and the Red Cross orderlies go over the field as the curtains are drawn before the stands to pick up the dead and injured.

Last night there was real use for the nurses and orderlies. As they ran out on the field with their stretchers they found Charles Stewart and James Hardner, British gunners, and Piet Gonner, one of the Boer horsemen, badly trampled by the British horses. They were picked up and carried to the emergency hospital on the grounds. A minute later they found the body of John Barlow, a British cavalryman, doubled up beneath one of the guns, where he had crawled after being trampled. His right leg was broken and he had received severe internal injuries. When he was taken to the hospital it was found he only had a slight chance to live.

MRS. PHIPPS UNDER KNIFE

Wife Who Accused Husband of Kidnapping in Hospital.

Mrs. Genevieve Chandler Phipps, who went to Kansas City several weeks ago to attend the races, has returned to New-York and for a fortnight has been in a hospital near this city, where she underwent a surgical operation for a growth on her neck. She is said to be recovering fast.

Mrs. Phipps is the wife of Lawrence C. Phipps, of Pittsburg. In June of last year Mr. Phipps was accused by his wife of kidnapping their two children, who were with Mrs. Phipps at the Hotel Netherland. Mrs. Phipps said that she was bound and gagged by her husband's emissaries. He then went West and began a suit for divorce. In July Mr. and Mrs. Phipps met in Pittsburg and decided on a reconciliation. In September, however, a separation was agreed on. Mrs. Phipps was to get $250,000, it was said, and to see her children at stated intervals.

ARCTIC EXPLORER DIES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Omaha, Neb., May 26.—Captain B. F. Reynolds, chief engineer of the Omaha waterworks, and once a well known Arctic explorer, died here last night. Captain Reynolds was chief engineer of the Pioneer, which in 1866 sailed from New-York in search of traces of the Sir John Franklin Arctic expedition. In 1881 he was a member of the famous North Star expedition to the North seas and was a prisoner in the ice for many months.

THE SECOND EMPIRE.

A new fast train on the New York Central leaves Grand Central Station 2:30 P. M., arrives Albany 6:20, Utica 7:14, Syracuse 8:23, Rochester 9:56, Buffalo 11:30 P. M. No excess fare.—Advt.

INTERESTING NEWS ON OTHER PAGES.

The decision of Justice Maddox in the Lord Equitable suit was against mutualization. It was hinted that the Governor might recommend a legislative insurance inquiry. Page 9.

Indictments were found against Armitage Mathews, John W. Wooten and Samuel I. Ferguson for alleged looting of the estate of William Weissell. Page 3.

Justice Van Brunt, of the Supreme Court, dropped dead at the Manhattan entrance of the Brooklyn Bridge. Page 5.

E. A. Fisher declared he was in no way responsible for the failure of the Merchants' Trust Company, and accused Frank Gould of squeezing the concern. Page 8.

Italian rockmen and excavators in a strike riot threatened to explode dynamite near the New-York Hospital. Page. 2.

Advices from Shanghai say that Chinese cruisers cleared for action following a demand for the departure of the Russian vessels. Page 3.

Governor Higgins held a hearing on the Ambler bill, making possible the immediate closing of the "fake" Raines law hotels. Page 2.

Latest developments in the Chicago Strike. Page 5.

EX-GOV. FRANCIS HURT.

Thrown from Automobile in Cincinnati and Sprains Ankle.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Cincinnati, May 26.—Ex-Governor D. R. Francis of Missouri, president of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company, with J. B. Forgan, president of the First National Bank, Chicago, and Percy Procter, of the Procter & Gamble Soap Company, were in an automobile accident this afternoon, in which all had a narrow escape from death, and Mr. Francis sustained a severely sprained ankle, scratches and bruises about the head, face and body.

He was thrown from the machine in front of a Gilbert-ave. car, which was stopped within a few feet of him. The accident was the result of Mr. Procter's attempt to turn his machine to avoid a wagon. The wheels struck the car tracks, throwing Mr. Francis out. He was taken to the Grand Hotel, where his injuries were dressed while he laughingly chided the doctor for hurting him. He was unable to hear Secretary Taft speak at the Queen City Club to-night, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Cincinnati Commercial Club, the celebration of which he is attending.

CUP BRINGS $81,375.

Crystal Drinking Vessel Reported Bought by J. P. Morgan.

London, May 26.—A small sixteenth century drinking cup, carved out of rock crystal, mounted and enamelled with gold, was sold at auction here this afternoon for $81,375.

It is said that the cup was purchased for J. Pierpont Morgan, of New-York. It belonged to John Gabbitas, of London, who placed the reserve price at $25,000. There has been much discussion over its authenticity, but the British Museum has pronounced it genuine.

The bidding was fast and furious, from $2,500 to $50,000, but thenceforward the duel was between two prominent London dealers. It is believed that $81,375 is the highest price ever paid for a single object of art in an English auction room.

DECLINES SECOND TERM.

Governor Douglas Prefers Business and Home Life.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Boston, May 26.—Governor William L. Douglas announced to-day that in no circumstances would he be a candidate for renomination. The Governor's determination was announced through a letter to John J. Flaherty, chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee, of Gloucester. The letter says:

In order that the coming campaign of our party in this State may be facilitated, I deem it my duty to inform you that I shall not again be a candidate for the nomination of Governor. This decision has been reached after careful consideration, and I feel that in justice to myself I must be allowed to retire at the close of the present term. I have no taste for officeholding, much preferring my business and quiet home life to the constant strain incident to public responsibilities.

Last fall, when there seemed little probability of success for our ticket, I consented to the use of my name as candidate for the office of Governor. On a tariff reform and reciprocity platform I made the canvass for my party and triumphed at the polls.

Since my inauguration as Governor I have earnestly endeavored to serve the interests of the whole people, and I shall continue to do so until the end of my term.

LEFT ESTATE OF $1,000,000.

Man Thought To Be Poor Gave Bulk to Sister.

Through the filing of papers in the Surrogate's office in Kings County yesterday it became known that Alexander Russell, who died alone in a small furnished room at No. 121 Cambridge Place, Brooklyn, last October, left an estate of over $1,000,000. By a will which was brought over from Dunfermline, Scotland, where Mr. Russell was born, by David Deas Blair, named as executor, the greater part of the estate is to go to Miss Agnes Jeanette Russell, of that place, the sister of the dead man. About $85,000 is to be distributed among various public institutions and a few small bequests are left to friends.

Mr. Russell, who kept much to himself in his little Brooklyn room, had few friends there, and none of them were aware that he had an income larger than would keep him modestly. The Public Administrator of St. Louis, where Mr. Russell lived for some time, being a member of the wholesale drygoods firm of D. Crawford & Co., learned of his death, and, knowing of his wealth, took charge of property there amounting to some $200,000. Then he communicated with the Public Administrator in Kings County. Charles H. Kelby, counsel for the administrator, after a search through the financial district, found that Mr. Russell had stocks and bonds and other securities, amounting to $260,000, in the Colonial Trust Company, and $84,000 in cash in the Chemical National Bank. Mr. Blair, who is also trustee for some of Andrew Carnegie's benefactions, says that Mr. Russell's property in Dunfermline amounts to more than $500,000.

WOMAN ROBBED OF $9,000.

Taken from Hotel While Syracuse Widow Was Driving.

Syracuse, May 26.—While Mrs. Margaret Sabet, a wealthy widow, eighty-four years old, was driving with her maid this afternoon, her apartments at the Yates Hotel were entered by sneak thieves and diamonds and other jewels, valued at $4,000, stolen. Five thousand dollars in currency was also made way with. The police believe the work was that of a professional.

RIVAL FLEETS IN ACTION.

Rumor in Tokio of Battle in the Corean Straits.

Tokio, May 27 (Noon).—It is rumored here that the Japanese and Russian fleets under Vice-Admiral Togo and Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky have engaged in the Corean Straits.

REWARD OF $10,000.

Tiffany & Co. Offer That Sum for Stolen Diamonds.

Ten thousand dollars' reward is now offered for the recovery of the diamonds stolen from Tiffany & Co.'s Union Square store on April 25 and for the arrest and conviction of the thief or thieves; $5,000 reward will be paid for the recovery of the gems and $5,000 for the capture and conviction of the man or men who so cleverly got them out of the Tiffany store.

The diamonds, it will be remembered, are three in number and are pear shaped. One weighs 14¾ carats, one 12⅞ and the third 11 3-32. These diamonds were in the workroom, where the gems are cut, polished and set, on April 25, and were supposed to have been turned into the caged inclosure where the precious stones are kept at night, at the end of the day's work. They were not turned in, but were not missed until the following morning.

All information relative to the diamonds or any clews to them or the thief or thieves is to be sent to Acting Inspector O'Brien, head of the Detective Bureau. This would indicate that the police are the chief workers in the case.

The detectives of the Tiffany company and the outside men who have been called in to help solve the mystery of the disappearance of the diamonds are sitting on the case, according to information given yesterday. This means that they have followed several clews without success, and that about the only hope of recovering the gems is that one of their number will be on hand when the jewels are offered for sale.

It was said yesterday by a detective that the closest possible search of the diamond cutting and polishing room and of the diamond storage vault on the sixth floor of the Union Square establishment had failed.

CATHOLIC CLUB CONTEST.

Conservative Element to Oppose Putting Politicians in Office.

The annual meeting of the Catholic Club on June 16, for the election of officers, promises to be the liveliest contest that club has had since its organization. The contest is over the board of managers, which controls the club.

Clergymen and laymen, members of the club since its infancy, say that within the last year a strong political clique has been organized in the club. This has been discussed in Catholic circles for some time and has caused alarm to the more conservative element. The conservative element aims to keep off the board men who are more or less prominent in politics.

It was a surprise to not a few Catholics of note when the club's nominating committee failed to renominate Justice Leonard A. Giegerich to succeed himself as president, but it was learned yesterday that Justice Giegerich was unwilling to serve another term. There was no dispute about this office and both factions have headed their tickets with Dr. Francis J. Quinlan. It is said that efforts will be made to defeat Corporation Counsel Delany and Daniel F. Cohalan as members of the board of managers. Since Tammany Hall came into power many of the Wigwam's members have got into the club, against, it is hinted, the wishes of the conservative element, which wished to keep the club just a bit exclusive.

Not long after Mayor McClellan's election Corporation Counsel Delany introduced Charles F. Murphy for membership. He was admitted to membership.

The board at present consists of John J. Delany, Daniel, F. Cohalan, Thomas Lenane John Jerome Rooney, James M. Tully, Joseph T. Ryan, Hugh King and Andrew A. McCormick.

THREAT TO BURN HOUSES.

Hater of Colored Servants Causes Fright by Letters.

Red Bank, N. J., May 26 (Special).—"We want you to discharge your colored servant, and if you don't do it right away we will burn your house down."

In substance this constitutes the contents of several letters which have been received in Red Bank in the last few days by persons who employ colored girls in their kitchens. At least eleven families have been the recipients of threatening missives. At first little attention was paid to the communications, but as they continued to be written the police and postoffice authorities were informed. There is no clew to the anonymous writer of the letters. There is general alarm among the colored help.

PORTLAND MINE TO CHANGE HANDS.

Irving Howbert to Sell Cripple Creek's Best Producer.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Denver, May 26.—A well authenticated report that the Portland mine, in Cripple Creek, one of the richest mines in the world, is to be sold, is creating a profound sensation here. The price which is asked for the property is stated to be $15,000,000. Irving Howbert, the Colorado Springs millionaire, president of the Portland Gold Mining Company, is negotiating the deal.

CHIEF GERONIMO WINS RACE.

Lawton, Okla., May 26.—Geronimo, the Apache chief, rode his sorrel horse Geronimo in a race at the Fair Grounds to-day, and won $150.

AT NUMBER 400 FIFTH AVENUE.

Fine hall clocks, bronzes, marbles, at very low prices. Catalog of jewelry, silverware, etc., mailed free. Mermod, Jaccard & King.—Advt.

CITY EMPLOYES CAUGHT.

Raiders Find Alleged Poolroom Keeper Stuck in Chute.

"Play Robertson to lose in the chute" was the tip given to the police just before they raided an alleged poolroom in West 84th-st., near Columbus-ave., yesterday. The place is known as the Kimberly Club.

It was a straight tip. Robertson lost, and he lost in the chute. Robertson is colored, darkly colored. The police charged him with running the poolroom. In the round-up Robertson was not to be found. Detective Standish, exploring the cellar, heard therein strange sounds. He investigated and saw a pair of legs sticking out of a coal chute.

"It must be very dark and dismal down in that hole," quoth he, the lines of an ancient epic running through his mind.

"Been chut in the chute, eh?" he said, addressing the legs. "A dark horse that didn't win."

Then he seized the legs and pulled on them, and they came down, the rest of Robertson tumbling after.

"So coaled, so coaled," shivered Robertson, his teeth chattering as he was led to join the other prisoners, while the detective muttered, "A black diamond from the Kimberly mine."

It was an unusual raid in many respects. The house, whose iron gates the police battered down, is in a most respectable neighborhood, the home of William Howell, secretary to Police Commissioner McAdoo, being nearly opposite it. The police say that city employes have been among the patrons of the place, and that two employes of the Water Department and one of the Sheriff were among those caught in the raid. About seventy-five persons were in the place. The house was richly furnished. Rich carpets covered the floors and the hangings were of silk. In a room, apparently an office, were found check books and other papers, bearing the name of J. F. Shaughnessy. According to Captain Cooney, of the West 68th-st. station, the club has been in operation for over four years. It is said that further action may be taken in the cases of the city employes.

Racing sheets, blackboards, six telephones, a gambling layout for faro and roulette, fifteen decks of cards and one thousand chips were seized.

Some time ago Detective Horton, of the West 125th-st. station, investigated the theft of clothing from a man who told Horton he was running a "little game downtown." Horton took the "tip," and, while watching the house raided yesterday, saw frequently entering it a colored man whom he had seen at the house of the man robbed. This led to the raid.

Three men escaped over fences and through apartment houses to 83d-st.

SUES SON FOR FORTUNE.

Brooklyn Man Demands Restitution of Over $1,000,000.

Jeremiah Fitzpatrick, once one of the largest glass manufacturers in this country and a noted philanthropist, has brought suit against his son and daughter-in-law, James and Margaret Fitzpatrick, for the restitution of over $1,000,000 in bonds, securities and realty which he says was wrongfully taken from him. This property was said last night to be all in the name of Margaret Fitzpatrick. The son makes many bitter recriminations against his father, and against his brother-in-law, Dr. E. T. Curran, of Columbia Heights, Brooklyn. James Fitzpatrick says he will vindicate himself in open court, and sue any person who intimates that he ever burned his place of business to collect the insurance. He has brought suit against Dr. Curran for $50,000 for libel for alleged defamatory and libellous remarks.

Service in the suit of his father was accepted yesterday by Fitzpatrick after evading service for five days in his country house at New-Suffolk, Long Island. The summons is returnable next Friday before Supreme Court Justice Marean, in Brooklyn.

Counsel for James Fitzpatrick said last night:

"The allegation that Mrs. Fitzpatrick holds $1,000,000 belonging to Jeremiah Fitzpatrick is untrue. She is worth $500,000 in her own right, willed to her by her father, Judge Pierson."

Among the charges made by Fitzpatrick against his son is that two months ago, when he had occasion to sell some lots in Hoboken worth $15,000, he says he discovered that they had been transferred by his son to his wife. He said he at once revoked the power of attorney he had given James, but found that all property had been diverted in some way.

When the works of the Fitzpatrick Glass Company were burned on September 29, 1904, William C. Robb, secretary of the New-York Board of Fire Underwriters, says James Fitzpatrick submitted claims aggregating $152,000. When the board investigated, a claim for $90,000 less was made.

DYNAMITE RUINS BRIDGE.

P. R. R. Structure Was Being Built Over Hackensack River.

The new bridge being built over the Hackensack River by the Pennsylvania Railroad was entirely destroyed by dynamite at 2 o'clock this morning.

The cause of the explosion is not known. The railroad officials are inclined to believe it was due to accident.

The bridge was being built parallel to the present railroad bridge, a hundred yards away, from Jersey City to Harrison. The old bridge was not harmed.

It was only recently that a train on the Pennsylvania road ran into two cars of dynamite near Harrisburg, killing and wounding many.

ROTHSCHILD CHARTERS SPECIAL.

Starts for Paris After Hearing of Grandfather's Death.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Denver, May 26.—Baron Alphonse de Rothschild, of Vienna, grandson of Baron Alphonse de Rothschild, who has been visiting the mountain resorts of Colorado for the last week, was greatly shocked by the news of his grandfather's death, and at once chartered a special train and started East to catch a fast steamer for Paris.

PREFERS GOLD TO CARNEGIE MEDAL.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Rodie, Penn., May 26.—Mrs. John Baumann, mother of Louis Baumann, the seventeen-year-old boy who has been voted a medal for bravery by the Carnegie Hero Commission, to-day expressed regret that her son had not been given money for an education instead of the medal which he has been promised. She said:

Louis is a brave and good boy, and while I had never any doubt but the Carnegie people would recognize his act, I had hoped that he would have been given the means to complete an education. The medal will be of no use to him, although a nice thing to have.

PARLOR SMOKING CAR.

Effective May 27th, Parlor Smoking Car will be run between Jersey City and Point Pleasant via the Pennsylvania Railroad train leaving New-York at 3:25 p. m., returning from Point Pleasant at 6:55 a. m., week-days, and commencing June 2d, similar service on the 4:25 p. m. Southbound and 7:55 a. m. Northbound, week-days.—Advt.

WEAVER'S BATTLE ALMOST WON

PHILADELPHIA COUNCILMEN YIELDING TO STORM OF INDIGNANT PROTEST.

The Mayor Receiving Many Assurances of Support—A Great Mass Meeting Approves His Course.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Philadelphia, May 26.—The machine is crumbling. The organization is disintegrating. Commissioner Durham, until the present fight against Mayor Weaver and the attempt of the ring to force the United Gas Improvement bill through the Councils, undisputed dictator of the organization and iron handed ruler of the municipality, is learning the truth of Mirabeau's fiery declaration that it is but a step from the throne to the Tarpeian Rock. To-night the battle is practically won. The regulars are on the run. Desertion after desertion from the colors is being reported. The people are aroused as this lethargic city has not been aroused in the recollection of its oldest citizens. It has been militant and outraged citizenship against the most compact, powerful and arrogant organization ever known in a municipality.

"Resolved, That we, citizens of Philadelphia, without regard to party or politics, do hereby, before God and man, pledge our life, liberty and sacred honor to the complete overthrow of despotic methods in municipal affairs and the restoration of the American principles for which our fathers fought, and which shall ever be our glory while we remain worthy to be called their children."

Amid tremendous cheering and the waving of flags several thousand persons, packed in the Academy of Music to-night to hear prominent Philadelphians express their protest against the gas lease, adopted the above resolution. It was a scene that gave the opponents of the lease renewed inspiration.

The victory of the Mayor and the people against the ring, foreshadowed only now, but as certain as anything can be in affairs of this kind, means the passing of Durham, the destruction of the machine and a cleaner and better government for the city. Incidentally, it is said by Durham's friends to-night that he is a sick man; that this was to have been his last fight, and that he wants to get out, anyway.

THE MAYOR JUBILANT.

It has been a day of consultations on both sides. The Mayor is on the aggressive. The ring is on the defensive. The Mayor has all the best of it. The ring leaders are trying to hold their forces, but they appear to be unable to do so. They will not admit defeat, but are silent and grim. On the other hand, the Mayor is jubilant.

"Can you assure the public that a veto of the gas lease will be sustained by Councils?" he was asked this evening.

"Things look brighter every minute. That is all I care to say now," he replied.

"Have you been surprised at the attitude of the people toward you personally in the last few days?"

"Not only surprised, but I have been very much gratified."

"Will there be any further suspensions or removals of officeholders before the argument on Monday?"

"I cannot answer that question."

"Have you taken steps to have the street cleaning and garbage contracts readvertised?"

"I have not yet considered that."

"Mr. Mayor, it is reported that you have received pledges from Councilmen with the understanding that their names be not divulged. Is that so?"

"Naturally, I cannot answer that question."

"It is rumored that you intend prosecuting several members of the organization criminally. Is that so?"

"I must refer you to my lawyer."

"But you are yourself a lawyer, Mr. Mayor."

"Yes, but you know the old proverb that a man who is his own lawyer has a fool for a client. I wish that I did stand as lawyer and not as client in this case."

"Have you vetoed the gas lease?"

"I don't want to answer that now, as a veto is never a veto until it has been transmitted to Councils."

TREMENDOUS PRESSURE ON COUNCILS.

The struggle to hold or win councilmen is growing hotter, and many of the "city fathers" have expressed the wish that they had never been elected to the legislative body. They declare that they owe all their success in life to the organization, and that it would be an act of extreme disloyalty to go back on their leaders in time of trouble. Then, on the other hand, the pressure brought to bear by neighbors and other constituents and even business associates to abandon the organization and uphold the Mayor is so great that they do not know what to do. Some of the councilmen are pursued even into their homes, and delegations are calling on them at all hours of the day and night.

The first man to be won over to-day came to the Mayor's office with a delegation of his constituents. He was Charles E. Connell, of the Common Council. He was with the Mayor about ten minutes. When he left the office he was asked if he was going to vote against the lease, and with considerable show of feeling, he said:

"My God, what else is there for me to do? If I do not vote against the lease I will be out of my ward. I cannot help myself. Even my own family are pleading with me to join the Mayor, and I had to yield."

George B. Edward, a member of the Select Council, also saw the Mayor. He voted for the gas lease and the pressure on him has been particularly strong. On leaving the Mayor he said:

"We talked over the gas lease, but I did not agree to anything. I shall act as I think best, and no one knows how I will vote."

Mayor Weaver, stanchly supported by the vigilance committee, surrounding him in his fight against the organization and the United Gas Improvement Company, is dealing blow after blow against his enemies, while the organization, strongly intrenched, is making desperate efforts to keep its lines intact and hold its majority until next Thursday, when the question of passing the gas lease over the Mayor's veto will come up in the Councils. It is necessary for the Mayor to have seventeen votes in the Select and thirty-four votes in the Common Council to prevent the plans of the organization being effective. To-day has seen the desertion of seven members of Councils from the organization ranks, and the assertion is broadly made that by next Thursday the Mayor will have more than enough votes to sustain his stand. To-night he is assured of ten votes in the Select out of seventeen necessary, and in the Common Council twenty out of the requisite thirty-four.

ANOTHER BLOW AT THE RING.

When Mayor Weaver summarily dismissed the Directors of Public Safety and Public Works, and after a brief legal battle was sustained in his removals and appointments, he struck at the very front and head of the organization. Despite these changes there are many arteries and channels of vigor left in the organization and by his acts to-day the Mayor indicated plainly his determination to amputate every department and branch of "graft" in the control of the organization. When the Mayor this morning recalled the advertising for bids for street cleaning, and the gathering and incineration of garbage, he suddenly checked the smooth progress of two contracts which carry enormous profits. The street cleaning contract has been held by the Vare Brothers, and Senator McNichol has also had a part of this contract and the garbage contract. McNichol is regarded as Durham's right hand, and the Vare Brothers are considered his left hand. No one has ever bid against them seriously for these contracts, as it has been generally understood that everything was fixed for the continuance of the contracts in present hands. The action of the Mayor was a body blow and threw consternation into the ranks of the organization.

Commissioner Durham was early installed in the office of Senator Penrose in the Arcade Building to-day. A steady stream of callers went in and out of the office all day. It was noticed that members of the Council and ward leaders were being rounded up and renewed pledges of fealty exacted. The organization leaders are silent, but there is every evidence that they are beginning to weaken. The Mayor and his friends have nearly a week left in which to work on the Council and if they make anything like the progress that has been made in the last forty-eight hours they will completely rout the organization.

In the mean time the Mayor remains a popular idol. His trip to luncheon to-day with Directors Acker and Potter was another triumph. Thousands followed him through the streets, cheering him. One man who ventured to cheer for Durham was set upon by the mob, his hat knocked off and he was badly beaten. The Mayor had to step into a cab to escape his well-wishers. Congressman Timothy D. Sullivan once characterized New-York as a seven-day town. He said: "If any one can stand the gaff for seven days they can get away with the goods and New-York will forget it." A friend of Mayor Weaver was asked to-day if a condition of this kind would hold good in this city. He said, grimly: "The town has been asleep ever since the Independence Bell was cracked to wake them up. After this slumber, lasting over a century, they are wide awake and I don't think the town will even nod until this battle is won."

PROTEST AND WARNING.

Citizens of Philadelphia Pledge Support to the Mayor.

Philadelphia, May 26.—The mass meeting in the Academy of Music to-night to protest against the gas lease was one of the largest gatherings held here in a long time. So great was the crowd that an overflow meeting was held in the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association and another in Broad-st., in front of the Academy.

W. W. Justice, a wool merchant, presided at the Academy meeting, and the principal address was delivered by Charles Emory Smith, formerly Postmaster General of the United States. Mr. Smith, before beginning his speech, announced that word had just reached him that 150 citizens had called on a Councilman in an outlying ward and demanded that he pledge his vote against the lease, which he did. After Mr. Smith had spoken another message came that a Councilman in the 28th Ward had also pledged himself to-night to go along with the Mayor.

Mr. Smith in his address said:

The question of defeating the gas steal and redeeming the city is not a question of politics. It is above all narrow partisanship. It rises to the loftier altitude of the citizen's conscientious duty and of the highest civic obligation. The attempt has been made by the plunderers to shield their raid under the name of the party organization, and now that they stand trembling before the storm of popular wrath they seek to defend themselves and hold their quaking and deserting followers under the plea that the party organization is at stake.

I would not venture to introduce a political name into this discussion but for this effort to drag a party flag into the mire. But it becomes necessary to strip the mask from these pretenders who are dishonoring an unworthy leadership. And so I shall make bold to take a leaf from personal experience and to give a chapter of political history.

On June 27, 1901, a town meeting of a character not unlike the present one was held in this same Academy of Music. A district attorney had dared to do his duty in a momentous public trial. In what seemed to be a determination to punish him for his conscientious fulfilment of his oath, the organization had refused him a renomination. The independent and high-minded people were indignant at this act and met to express their sense of a public wrong and, if need be, to raise the flag of revolt.

I was asked to come from Washington to address that meeting. Circumstances were such that I could not leave my post, but, after some deliberation, I deemed it a matter of duty to take a position, and send a telegram to be read at the meeting which should indicate sympathy and approval. On the following day I went to the President and said to him:

"Mr. President, you see what I have done. I deliberately and studiously avoided saying a word to you in advance. I felt that the act ought to be mine alone. But I do not wish you to be embarrassed, and if this action of one of your official family involves any embarrassment, my resignation is at your disposal."

All this thus far is of no importance. What follows is important. Instantly the President answered:

"My friend, you are a citizen of Philadelphia. Your duty as a citizen is a matter for your own judgment. If you feel that you have done your duty, you have acted rightly and you have my approval."

NOT UNDER REPUBLICAN FLAG.

That was the word of the great, white-souled William McKinley. Less than three months after President McKinley spoke those words his noble soul took its flight to its Maker. But where would William McKinley stand if he were a citizen of Philadelphia to-day? Where would Theodore Roosevelt be found in this battle for honest government and clean politics? I deny the right of the conspirators who are banded together to gag and plunder our fair city to speak in a party name. The black flag of piracy is not the flag of Republicanism. It is not the lustrous flag of Abraham Lincoln, and Ulysses S. Grant, and William McKinley, and Theodore Roosevelt. This attempt to cloak the foulest robbery under the mantle of party loyalty is an unholy desecration, and it is the highest duty of free men to repudiate the crime and rescue the city from the thraldom.

Our whole character as free men is at stake. The crime against which we have risen is the most stupendous robbery which has ever been undertaken in municipal history. But, unparalleled as it stands in the record of pillage, the issue is beyond and above all question of dollars. Our manhood, our honor, the very fibre of our being, are all on trial. We are to show whether we are worthy sons of worthy sires, or whether we have lost the entire heritage of our fathers and have become enfeebled and degenerate people. We are to tell the world whether we shall remain free men or whether we shall wear the chains of slaves.

In such a crisis, where the highest interests of the city are at stake, where the support of a Mayor who has boldly stood forth as a public champion is involved, and where your rights and honor constitute the issue, you are justified in saying to your representatives:

"You cannot safely betray us. We demand that you shall stand with the people against the plunderers. We shall observe the law. We shall respect the restraints of an orderly community, but if you persist in trying to bind us in the grasp of bandits, we shall show you how self-respecting and self-defending men can deal with you. Make your choice."

If that spirit shall grow during the next week as it has during the last, we shall defeat this iniquity and win a complete and glorious victory.

THE PEOPLE WARNED.

William T. Tilden, secretary of the meeting, and also secretary of the Committee of Nine, made a speech, in which he warned the people

After all, USHER'S, the Scotch that made the highball famous. It is the best.—Advt.