ENGLISH WAR SCANDALS.

Sir William Butler's Indictment of Army Service and Contractors.

London, June 17.

The English press is embarrassed by Mr. Choate's tribute to the purity of the public service. His remark at the Union League Club that he did not hear of a single case of corruption all the time that he was in the United Kingdom is quoted during the same week when the report of a departmental committee on sales and refunds to contractors has been made public; and self-respecting Englishmen are reluctantly forced to admit that the compliment could not have been paid if his departure had been deferred a fortnight. The comments of London journals on the army scandals are cautious and circumspect, for two libel suits have been brought by officials implicated in these transactions, and appeals have been taken to higher courts. Yet, without incurring the risks of contempt of court by taking up the charges against army officers and contractors, they accept the report as an impeachment of the whole administrative system. Millions were wasted by ineptitude and mismanagement in South Africa. That was the first impression of the committee, and a more charitable view of the transactions could not have been formed. As the investigation proceeded there was an increasing sense of suspicion, until finally "the idea of even culpable negligence had to be abandoned and in its place the impression of cleverly arranged contrivance substituted." With so startling a report from the War Office in a blue book and hundreds of pages of evidence in six specific cases, the English press frankly concedes that Mr. Choate's tribute to the purity of the public service is undeserved.

At the close of the war in South Africa there was a four months' stock of military stores for 300,000 men and 200,000 animals, and ships were afloat to augment these supplies. The War Office is censured in the report for neglecting to divert the supplies, which were in transit by sea, and to send out a small trained staff to dispose of the surplus stocks. The businesslike course would have been to use the stores so far as possible for the garrison, which remained large for several months, and also for the repatriation of the Boers in two colonies, where in accordance with the convention they were to be restored to their homes and put in the way of supporting themselves. The accumulated stocks were sold at a sacrifice to contractors and then repurchased at enhanced prices for the garrison and the Boer refugees. A more wasteful system could scarcely have been devised, or one more profitable to the contractors; and the only intelligible excuse offered for it was that the expenses of a large clerical staff were saved and serious risks and liabilities avoided. A trained staff from the army service corps would have earned its salaries and a large percentage of the surplus stores valued at six or seven millions sterling would not have been sold and bought back, to the enrichment of contractors. There was no intelligent forecast of the amount of stores required either for the army or for the Boer settlers, and the sales and purchases went on without supervision from the general staff and with almost incredible carelessness on the part of the War Office in neglecting to ask for official returns. The ineptitude of the military authorities in these proceedings was most amazing. The contractors were allowed a free hand and army scandals were inevitable. Indeed, this trenchant report contains dark hints of "an impenetrable background where some deeper calculator had his abode."

"Time brings its revenges to a veteran," is the comment made by military men on this report. The author is Sir William Butler, one of the strongest and most picturesque figures in the British army. He was in command of the garrison in South Africa when Lord Milner was conducting his negotiations with President Krüger, and he was so well informed that he was able to warn the government at home of the magnitude of the struggle which was impending. He was considered an alarmist, and before the outbreak of the war he was recalled to routine work in the southern counties and was charged with being a Boer sympathizer and a Little Englander. Like a good soldier, he held his peace and went on with his work in silence, indifferent to criticism and abuse. His vindication came when exhaustive reports on the conduct of the war contained evidence of the sagacity of his own forecasts, of which no heed was taken at the War Office; yet he did not seem elated by this reversal of public judgment, nor was there any evidence that he was resentful. When a department investigation of sales and refunds to contractors was ordered he was readily induced to conduct it, and with his great experience and active mind he completely overshadowed his colleagues. Some of the critics assert that he allowed his prepossessions and his zeal as a Liberal standing for Parliament at the next election to run away with him and that he took unfair advantage of an opportunity for exposing the inefficiency which was shown in carrying out Lord Kitchener's recommendation for the sale of the surplus stores. A gallant soldier, whose conscience has always been in his work, ought not to be exposed to strictures of this sort. He discovered that bad work had been done, and considered that the department was entitled to an honest and candid report and the country to full knowledge of the truth. As he was silent when he was grossly maligned a few years ago, he ought now to be credited with high motives in making this exposure of military inefficiency.

Sir William Butler, moreover, is a man of letters, who has written several spirited books, and has the Irish talent for vividness of style and rhetorical ornament. Military writers, accustomed to the dull levels of mediocrity and commonplace in official reports, are shocked to find passages like this: "Some clumsy pantaloon in putties—even some agile harlequin in a helmet—may occasionally be caught"; or the caustic description, "the readiest reckoner of profit of whom the history of military contracts has any record." They complain that the report is too picturesque in phrasing, too rhetorical in form, to be regarded as a judicial, colorless document; and certainly it does not lack either fervor or vivacity. Sir William Butler has been deeply interested in his work, has kept a firm grip upon the facts, and has known how to make his points. If his pen sometimes runs away with his discretion, he never loses sight of his object, which is to make known the responsibility for wasteful expenditures. With precision and lucidity he enforces the moral that the military authorities in South Africa had only to use their stuff for their animals on their own ground, but they preferred to buy back their forage from contractors and to give them 60 per cent more than had been paid for it. They had what was virtually the only supply of food and forage at the close of the war; yet they sold it in bulk with one hand, after paying the heavy charges of sea and land transport, and with the other repurchased it by local tenders for feeding their men and horses, paying within a halfpenny of eighteen shillings for the oats which they got rid of at ten, and losing as heavily on hay, beans and mealies. One hand was cheap and the other was dear, but the head above the shoulders pretended not to know what was going on, and the contractor, who was buying and selling on his own terms, was not so officious as to remind it that he was making money himself hand over hand. Possibly Sir William Butler, being an Irishman, ought to have been impressed with the humor of this travesty on business management. Instead of laughing over it as a pleasantry at the expense of a nation of shopkeepers and taxpayers, he has given a vivid and picturesque account of this dual system of buying and selling for the contractor's benefit, and has found relief for his feelings in strong language.

The rhetorical blue book is particularly irritating to the newspapers, which are compelled by the law of libel to refrain from discussing the responsibility of the officials implicated in these scandals. Silence is enjoined upon them since two suits for damages have gone against them in the courts, and they have not been allowed to obtain evidence from the War Office or to cross-examine witnesses on the system of administration. Yet the author of this report has been at liberty to do what they were mulcted in damages for attempting in their own defence; and when he has completed his caustic commentary upon military administration in South Africa, his superior, the Secretary for War, finds it necessary to discredit it, in a covering note, as in no sense a judicial finding, since the evidence was incomplete and not taken under oath. The committee was instructed to make a thorough investigation and to report on the responsibility of those concerned in certain contracts; yet its conclusions are officially minimized as sub judice and condemned by one of the successful litigants as distinctly libellous. Without doubt there should have been a court of inquiry in place of a department investigation; and no report should have been published until everybody implicated had been heard under oath and the question had been settled with precision whether the accounts of the officers in South Africa had been properly audited and passed. With all the irregularities in procedure, by which military officers and civilians have been brought under fire without having full facilities for protecting their reputations, Sir William Butler's report serves the useful purpose of directing public attention in a commanding way to the inefficiency of the army administrative system.

I. N. F.

TESTIFIES BY 'PHONE.

Statement of Witness Over Wire Is Recorded in Court.

Riverhead, Long Island, June 29.—Because Joseph P. Adams was unable to be at a hearing in the contest over the will of Mrs. Helen Terry yesterday afternoon, it was necessary to get his testimony from him by telephone from Greenport. Surrogate Belford ordered that this evidence be recorded the same as though the witness had been in the courtroom to give testimony in the usual manner. Mr. Adams was one of the witnesses to the will of Mrs. Terry. Other witnesses testified that when the will was made all the doors in the house were locked and there was the utmost secrecy. Mr. Adams's testimony, taken over the telephone, was to the effect that no doors were locked, and that there was no attempt at secrecy.

Several nieces and nephews are attempting to break the will, by the terms of which the estate is left to three favorite nephews. The value of the estate is between $150,000 and $200,000.

BIG DEPARTMENT STORE SOLD.

St. Louis Deal Involves Several Million Dollars.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

St. Louis, June 29.—Thomas H. McKittrick, of the Hargadine-McKittrick Drygoods Company, and Murray Carleton, of the Carleton Drygoods Company, representing a syndicate of local capitalists, to-day contracted to buy from William Barr, of East Orange, N. J., his interest in the William Barr Drygoods Company, whose department store is the largest and one of the oldest in St. Louis, and also most of the stock held by the estate of the late Joseph Franklin. The deal is the largest of its kind ever made in St. Louis and involves several million dollars.

George M. Wright, now vice-president of the Barr Company and acting manager, will be made president and manager. No other changes will be made in the management. The big store will continue at its present location, and will be conducted along the same lines as at present. Barr's was established in 1849.

MAN OF MANY ALIASES MAY BE HERE.

"Lord Courtney" Has Often Impersonated Titled Englishmen.

H. L. Courtenay, alias "Lord Courtney," "Lord Beresford" and "Sir Harry Vane, of Her Majesty's Light Artillery," is said to have arrived here from England about two months ago, and to be living a quiet life in this city.

A member of the Pinkerton detective force said yesterday to a Tribune reporter that he had heard that the former bogus British nobleman was again in this city, but more than that he knew nothing about the alleged return of "Lord Courtney" to this country.

"Lord Courtney" has been well known in this city since 1874, and, in fact, in nearly every part of the United States and Canada. While posing as an English nobleman years ago, Courtney was entertained by people of prominence in Newport, Richmond, Va.; Baltimore and Canada.

Courtenay is tall and of gentlemanly appearance. He is about fifty-five years old. Former Chief of Police Byrnes said years ago that Courtenay's right name was supposed to be Clinton, and that he was a son of a former lodgekeeper of the Earl of Devon. In 1890 Courtenay was said to have gone back to England.

STOCK MARKET IN JURY BOX.

Juror Continues to Get Cotton Reports While Listening to Testimony.

Barton S. Castles, a cotton broker, who is a juryman in a murder case in General Sessions, continued to receive messages from his firm yesterday as to the rise and fall of the cotton market. He was allowed to do so by Judge Foster, counsel not objecting, as he held that it would ease his mind to know how the market was, and he could then pay better attention to the case being heard. The messages are brought to court by messenger boys, and are given to the court, who scans them and then hands them to the juror.

The cotton market, which on Tuesday and Wednesday had advanced about 75 points, opened yesterday 10 to 15 points under Wednesday's close, the weakness being due to an unexpected break in the Liverpool market, said to have been the result of selling for American account. Extensive buying orders from Southern points, on reports of injury to the growing crop in various parts of the cotton belt from the continued heavy rains, held the decline within moderate bounds. The leading futures closed 1 to 5 points above the lowest of the day, and from 14 to 18 points lower than Wednesday.

KANG YU WEI GOES TO CITY HALL.

Kang Yu Wei, the Chinese reformer, accompanied by his daughter and his official suite, visited the City Hall yesterday, and was received by Mayor McClellan. With the exception of the daughter, the visitors wore Chinese costumes. Chee Kog Kean, secretary to the reformer, acted as interpreter, assisted by General Homer Lea, of the Chinese reform army, who is an American.

The Mayor shook hands with each of the party. He congratulated Kang You Wei on his opportunities for reform in China, and told him of the great respect he entertains for all reformers.

GIRL OF SIXTEEN GETS DIVORCE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Denver, June 29.—Pearl Thomas, sixteen years old, secured a divorce in Pueblo this morning from her husband, Earl Thomas, whom she married three years ago, at the age of thirteen. The ground for divorce was cruelty. The court which granted the divorce separated four other couples in the same hour.

First thing in the morning, to start the day right, drink
Londonderry
LITHIA WATER
You will wonder why you have not done it always, and promise yourself never to omit it in the future.

BREWER'S AUTO IN CRASH

Runs Down Doctor's Family in Carriage—Two Hurt.

Asbury Park, N. J., June 29 (Special).—A 35-horsepower automobile, owned by Adolph Busch, of Brooklyn, of the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company, a guest at the Hotel Marlborough, ran down a carriage containing Dr. R. S. Bennett and family in Bond-st. to-night. Dr. Bennett and his young daughter Florence were badly injured. Mrs. Bennett escaped with slight bruises.

The carriage was badly wrecked, and the automobile lost two of its lamps. The driver, William A. Harse, was arrested. When arraigned before Police Justice Borden he admitted he was speeding the machine fifteen miles an hour. He was released under bail until to-morrow morning, when he will have a hearing.

ROYAL ARCANUM RATES.

Executive Committee Says Advance Was Absolutely Neccessary.

Boston, June 29.—The executive committee of the Supreme Council of the Royal Arcanum, at the conclusion of a three days' meeting, to-day issued a statement describing the functions and authority of the committee, which, it was said, had not met to consider or reconsider the new schedule of rates of assessment adopted by the Supreme Council, as it had "no power or authority to repeal, revoke, amend or alter it in any way." The statement then continued:

Thoughtful members, conversant with our vital statistics and the constantly increasing amount needed to pay death claims and the insufficiency of the amounts collected to pay them, realized the absolute and immediate necessity for an increase of rates. The perpetuity of the order demanded that the whole order should at once be put on a permanent and enduring basis, thereby providing sufficient funds to carry the Royal Arcanum for all time and meet all its obligations. This has been done. No increase of rates could be made without creating hardships somewhere. Had our condition not made this radical change a vital necessity, not a vote in the Supreme Council would have been cast in favor of the new law.

HOLDS TO NEW RATES.

Royal Arcanum Supreme Council Denies Brooklyn Demands.

The committee of nine appointed by the seventy-nine councils of the Royal Arcanum in Brooklyn to confer with the committee from the Supreme Council of the order, concerning the new order of rates that has been established reported last night that it was able to accomplish nothing with the Supreme Council. The report said that the executive committee was firmly fixed in its intention to continue the present rates. According to them, outside of New-York, there is almost perfect satisfaction with the new order.

The report was made last night to a meeting at the Aurora Grata Cathedral, made up of five delegates from each of the seventy-nine Brooklyn councils. Hugo Hirsh, chairman of the committee, spoke at some length of the work which they intended to do. He strongly condemned the Supreme Council, and said that the committee of nine would keep working until the Supreme Council was put out of business. The meeting passed resolutions aproving the action of the committee.

If the members of the Royal Arcanum who met at Terrace Garden last night have their way the Grand Council of the State of New-York will reconvene, and the representatives to the Supreme Council will be asked to request the Supreme Council to reconvene and reconsider their action in the matter of rates passed at the last convention.

On invitation of Celtic Council forty-two councils out of sixty-one in Manhattan and The Bronx were represented at the meeting. Regent John F. Walsh, of Celtic Council, presided, and there were in attendance between two and three hundred members. After a four hour session the secretary of the meeting said that two resolutions had been passed, one of which was as follows:

That while we do not fully approve of the action of the Supreme Council in their recent acts concerning the rates, we do, however, heartily approve and declare our perfect confidence in the stability of the Order of the Royal Arcanum.

The second resolution, requesting Grand Regent Samuel N. Hoag, of Mount Vernon, to call a meeting of the Grand Lodge of the State, was passed unanimously.

BLACKMAILED BARGE CAPTAIN.

Bogus Collector Got Money for Alleged Sick Employe of Dock Department.

On the charge that he has been collecting money from captains of barges and lighters along the East River front, on the pretence that it was for an employe of the Dock Department who was ill and needed the cash, a man who says he is Frank Williams, thirty-two years old, a restaurant keeper, but who refuses his address, was arrested yesterday at the wharf at the foot of East 37th-st. on the complaint of James Haggerty, an employe of the Dock Department. Williams was later arraigned in Yorkville police court, where Magistrate Whitman, at his request for delay that he might obtain counsel, adjourned his examination until next Monday, holding him in $500 bail on a short affidavit.

NEARLY TOOK OCEAN VOYAGE.

Messenger Put Ashore After La Lorraine Left Her Wharf.

District Messenger No. 780, who went to deliver a telegram to a departing passenger on the French Line steamship La Lorraine yesterday morning, furnished a sensation for those on the wharf. Messenger No. 780 is John Elmore, employed at the telegraph station No. 386 West-st. He is three feet one inch in height, sturdy, and sometimes known as "Pee Wee."

Just about the time for the gangways to be lowered Elmore, waving a yellow envelope, darted on board the steamship. A few seconds later the signal was given to lower the gangplanks. This was done, and a second afterward Elmore appeared at the ship's rail.

The vessel had swung out from the pier, and was just starting, when Elmore made known his plight to two of the ship's men. Instantly one picked the little fellow up, while another wrapped a line about his waist. Then, as La Lorraine moved out into the river, Elmore was lowered to a raft beside the pier. With a shout, the men threw the line to the wharf, where Detective Leeson caught it. Willing hands assisted Leeson in pulling the lad to the wharf. He was grasped by William O'Keefe, an employe of the telegraph company, and J. F. Carter, and pulled up on the wharf.

All this time the crowd, both on the ship and wharf, was cheering and pelting the boy with flowers. When it was all over the crowd gathered around the boy and congratulated him.

On La Lorraine sailed Miss Julia Marlowe, who goes to Carlsbad, to be gone six weeks; Judge and Mrs. Dugro, Baron R. M. de Brou, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Dilworth, Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Gallaway, Bishop Leroy, Miss M. Mott, the Countess de Marotte and William Franklyn Paris.

MORE RAINES HOTELS VIOLATE LAW.

Buildings Superintendent Hopper has informed Deputy Excise Commissioner Healy that he has found six more Raines law hotels which are existing in violation of the law. These make nine of the thirteen places investigated which have been discovered illegal. The licenses of two places have already been revoked. The six additional places are No. 1,852 2d-ave., No. 1,310 1st-ave., No. 1,865 2d-ave., No. 2,218 2d-ave., No. 2,357 2d-ave. and No. 2,356 2d-ave.

TO ENCIRCLE BROOKLYN IN BALLOON.

The California Arrow, Lee Stevens's airship, is ready to leave the Aerodrome, at Brighton Beach, on its trip over the housetops of Brooklyn and across the bay to the Statue of Liberty. The big silk cigar shaped bag from which the operator's cradle is suspended has been inflated with gas. Eighteen carboys containing vitriol were emptied into the generating tanks yesterday. The balloon is ready to leave the shed the instant Stevens's assistants open the big aerodrome doors and release the sand bags. The operator will ascend alone. If the weather conditions are favorable he will attempt to encircle Brooklyn.

MAIL WAGON STRIKE.

Contractors, Fearing One, Call on Marshal Henkel for Protection.

United States Marshal Henkel was visited yesterday by Special Agents J. M. Masten and F. W. Vaille, of the United States Postal Service contract office, who asked the marshal for special protection for the mail transfer service in this city, declaring they had information that about two hundred of the mail transfer wagon drivers intended to go on strike for higher wages and shorter hours.

The strike, the officials said, was scheduled to take place at midnight to-night, the beginning of the Postoffice Department's fiscal year. At that hour the New-York Mail Company, which has for about ten years held the contract for transferring the mails, will be succeeded by two new contractors, C. H. Wolcott being one of them. Mr. Wolcott's drivers are said to be engineering the strike. Mr. Wolcott's contract calls for the transfer of mail matter from the General Postoffice to the Grand Central Station.

Marshal Henkel promised he would give the mails in transfer all the protection in his power, and at once sent his chief deputy to Police Headquarters, where Inspectors Cortright and Brooks were taken in consultation. They promised the co-operation of the Police Department. Marshal Henkel also communicated with the police of Hoboken and Jersey City, and obtained promises of assistance from those departments.

The other transfer routes will be taken over by Munroe Proffit, of Floyd, Va. So far as known, there is no disaffection among Mr. Proffit's drivers, although some of them are said to have declared that if the Wolcott drivers are successful in their strike they will follow with a strike. The authorities do not propose to take any chances, however, and will have the Police Department detail special men to all the stations and ferries. To obstruct or interfere with the United States mails in any way is punishable by a fine of $500 and imprisonment for a year, and the abandonment of a mail wagon by a driver is also a violation of the United States statutes.

Just at the beginning of the holidays in 1903 the drivers, who were then receiving $1 a day for driving a one horse wagon and $1 25 a day for a two horse wagon, with twelve hours' work a day, struck. Several of them were arrested and punished for interfering with the mails, and the strike was finally settled by giving the men a slight advance in wages.

None of the drivers were willing to be quoted, but several of them said yesterday that to drive a mail wagon requires more skill than to drive an ordinary wagon, and that they thought themselves entitled to as much pay as, if not more than, men driving dump carts and trucks.

Postmaster Willcox said this afternoon that he had heard rumors of the threatened strike. He said he understood the drivers had demanded from the new contractor more money.

PULLER-IN GETS HIS'N, "B'GOSH."

Top Notch, N. J. Resident Doesn't Like Bayard-st. Methods.

Thomas Colbert, who confessed that his home was at Top Notch, N. J., was arraigned yesterday before Magistrate Pool in the Tombs court, charged with assault. The complainant against him was Myra Kaufman, who keeps a clothing store in Bayard-st., and who alleged that Colbert had struck him in an argument over a sale of clothing.

"What have you to say to this?" asked the court of Colbert, who bore the earmarks of his rural life in a carpet bag and brown umbrella tied amidships with a bit of twine.

"Well," replied the prisoner, in a combined dialect of the suburban dweller and the Emerald Isle, "you see, jedge, I do live in Jersey, but by gor' I'm no jay fer all that. I jest kem over to see th' old town a bit, and was walkin' along the Bowery, when I turned into this yer street. When I comes nigh to this man's store, I'm grabbed by half a dozen men front and rear, an' hustled into the store. First he wanted to sell me a suit for $3, and then he wanted to buy mine fer 75 cents. I told him I was satisfied with wot I has, and he gets at me again. Then I just lands him one, and I am arrested by the constable."

"You were perfectly right," declared the court, "there ought to be more like you in the world. You're discharged, sir."

DEEP MYSTERY IN ORE THEFTS.

American Museum Well Protected, but Exhibits Disappear.

Mystery still surrounds the theft of gold ores from the American Museum of Natural History. "The stories published of two thefts which took place last year are greatly exaggerated," John H. Winser, the secretary and assistant treasurer, told a Tribune reporter yesterday. "The value of the ores did not amount, I should say, even to $1,000."

Mr. Winser said that the thefts from the Siberian collection of implements and garments, as well as the specimens missing from the butterfly cases, were relatively insignificant. The few butterfly specimens missing, he said, were of the gaudier but less valuable variety, seeming to indicate that here at least the theft was the work of an outsider. The Museum authorities, however, scarcely appear disposed to take the same view of the ore theft. The ores are exhibited beneath quarter inch glass, the lid double locked, any attempt to raise it ringing an electric alarm simultaneously in two distinct parts of the building. It is understood that no theft of any description has been discovered this year.

The Museum has details of watchmen on duty night and day, the jewel chamber in the transept being guarded with especial vigilance. Steel doors separate it at night from the floor proper, and watchmen are actually locked inside the room. Here likewise two cases are similarly equipped.

FIGHT STURGEON IN HELL GATE.

Lifesavers Conquer Monster After Half Hour Struggle.

Battling with a big sturgeon in the shallow waters of Bounty's Cove, yesterday, John Hetherington and James Hunter, National Volunteer lifesavers, had an exceedingly lively half hour. The cove is on the Astoria shore of Hell Gate, and a station of the lifesavers is there.

While they were busy on a float, outside their headquarters, a boy sighted the fish and called to them to try to capture it. The lifesavers launched a boat, and with the aid of oars and boathooks drove the fish into shallow water.

They soon discovered that they had caught a Tartar, however, for the big fellow was lashing the water to a foam with his tail, and was diving and plunging at a great rate. After some time they struggle for supremacy. Hetherington fell prone and, jumping out of the boat, they continued the htruggle for supremacy. Hetherington fell prone on the sturgeon, while Hunter belabored his head with an oar. When they had mastered the sturgeon they made an examination, and discovered that the fish had evidently been struck by the wheel of a passing steamboat, and so partially incapacitated.

The sturgeon was 6 feet and 2 inches long, and weighed 132 pounds.

AGAINST OVERHEAD TROLLEYS.

The City Club, through Lawrence Veiller, in a letter to the Board of Estimate, announces that it opposes the granting of franchises for overhead trolley lines. The letter says that in future no franchise be granted unless the company receiving it agrees to provide adequate transfer facilities; that the city be compensated in proportion to the gross receipts, and that all new franchises shall contain a clause making forfeiture of the franchise the penalty for failure to comply with its provisions. It further suggests that in the event of failure to comply with the terms of the franchise, any taxpayer may, by leave of the court, bring action to compel compliance.

EVEN SOCIALISTS ARE ACTIVE.

Arlington, June 29 (Special).—The Socialistic party of West Hudson opened their campaign to-night by holding an open air meeting at Central-ave. and 3d-st., East Newark. The principal speaker was George H. Headley, one of the leaders of the party, who scathingly arraigned the corporations and trusts. The party is to make a lively campaign from now on.

PLAZA HOTEL SALE BRINGS $50,000.

The sale of the furnishings of the Plaza Hotel practically ended yesterday afternoon after running seventeen days. The few articles left were taken to No. 1,382 Broadway, the office of Darlington & Co., the auctioneers. Much of the furniture sold yesterday were unclaimed purchases. To-day the last scrap of movable property is being taken from the hotel, and the work of demolition will begin immediately.

The furnishings of the building originally cost about $500,000. At the sale they brough about $50,000. Mr. Willies, of the Hotel Marie Antionette, it is said, purchased ten vanloads of goods. Other hotel men who made large purchases were: P. J. Murphy, of Albany; John Kelly, of Rye Inn, Rye, N. Y.; Mr. Stores, of Baltimore, and J. Stevenson, of Lake Pleasant, N. Y.

FAST TRAINS WRECKED.

Seven Persons Killed in Accidents in West.

Cleveland, June 29.—A fast eastbound passenger train on the Cleveland and Pittsburg branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad left the rails and was wrecked near Atwater, Ohio, to-day, causing the death of one passenger, while a dozen or more were injured.

The train is one of the fastest between Cleveland and Pittsburg, making the run of 140 miles between the two cities in 3 hours and 15 minutes. A section gang was making repairs on the track, and, it is said, had removed a rail. A flagman was sent out, but for some reason he failed to stop the flyer and the wreck followed. Relief trains were promptly sent to the scene and the injured taken to Alliance.

Kansas City, Mo., June 29.—The "California Limited" on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railway was in collision to-day with a heavy Kansas City Southern stock train at the Gillis-st. crossing, two miles from the centre of the city. Two persons were killed and three injured.

Ellis, Kan., June 29.—Westbound passenger train No. 101, on the Union Pacific Railway, which left Kansas City last night, crashed into a freight train in the yards here to-day. J. H. Kinney, of Ellis, engineer of the passenger train, and two unknown men, believed to have been tramps, were killed. None of the passengers were injured.

LOVERS DROWN IN LAKE.

Bodies Found After Night Search in Oscawanna's Waters.

Lake Oscawanna, eight miles from Peekskill, has begun early this year to claim its victims beneath its cold and clear waters. James S. McIlravy and Miss Elizabeth Healy were drowned there Wednesday night, probably about dusk. Miss Healy and her mother and sisters lived formerly in Cold Spring, but recently moved to Peekskill, where she was employed in a laundry. She had a vacation and was spending a few days at Oscawanna.

McIlravy was an undertaker of Cold Spring a member of the Odd Fellows' and Foresters' lodges, of the volunteer fire department and of the Oscawanna Lake Club, of Cold Spring, which has a clubhouse on the shore of the lake. He drove over Wednesday morning, met Miss Healy, to whom he was said to be engaged, and about 7 o'clock in the evening they left the Jay Cox cottage in a new rowboat, which he had just purchased.

They were seen on the lake by several persons, and later the boat was noticed overturned. Search revealed the hats of McIlravy and Miss Healy floating. All night long the shores of the lake were patrolled, and the waters were dragged without result. At 10 o'clock yesterday morning McIlravy's body was recovered, and shortly afterward that of Miss Healy was found. The bodies were taken to Cold Spring by permission of Coroner Willard Jay Cox.

ATTACH CANFIELD HOUSE

P. H. Britt Sued Gambler for Lawyer's Fee.

An attachment against the ill-famed house at No. 5 East 44th-st., the property of Richard A. Canfield, the gambler, was granted by Justice Truax in the Supreme Court yesterday on the application of James A. Deering, attorney for Philip H. Britt. The application was made in connection with a suit for $15,000.

Mr. Britt was one of Canfield's attorneys in the proceedings which followed the exposure of the gambler and the raid on No. 5 East 44th-st. by District Attorney Jerome. Canfield and his manager, Dave Bucklin, were arrested on the charge of running a common gambling house. It was to this charge that Canfield pleaded guilty and paid a fine of $1,000. Britt's services were valued by him at $20,000. He received $5,000.

It was reported a few days ago that Canfield had sold his house to Delmonico's, next door, and that the gambling house was to be converted into an annex. The attachment was granted on the ground that the gambler is not a resident of this city, but lives in Providence, R. I.

ELECTION DISTRICT INCREASE 398.

Provisions of New Law Make Necessary 3,200 New Officials.

Three hundred and ninety-eight new election districts have been created in this city by the amended election law, and 3,200 new officials will be needed in order to man the districts. The Board of Elections yesterday completed its work of redistricting the city in accordance with the provisions of the new law. The increase in the election districts is as follows:

	1904.	1905.	Inc.
Manhattan	705	963	258
Bronx	100	153	53
Brooklyn	540	680	140
Queens	75	109	34
Richmond	40	48	3
Totals	1,550	1,948	398

The greatest increase is in the 35th Assembly District in The Bronx, where thirty-three new districts have been created. The next is in the 21st Assembly District, Manhattan, where twenty-six districts have been added. In Queens the 1st Assembly District is increased twenty election districts. The average increase in Brooklyn is seven to the Assembly district, the largest being in the 18th District, with twenty new districts. Taking the last registration as a basis, when 637,620 names were enrolled, the average number of voters to an election district is about three hundred and twenty-seven.

GOLD IN CAPITOL SQUARE WELL.

Carson, Nevada, June 29.—Several weeks ago the State of Nevada began boring an artesian well in the Capitol Square. A depth of over two hundred feet has been attained. Gold has been found in the sands that are being raised with the machinery, and A. Cohen, a merchant of this city, has filed a mining location notice on the grounds, setting forth that he claims all of the ground now occupied by Nevada's chief executive building.

BATTERY TO BRONX, JULY 15.

August Belmont, president of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, sent a letter to the Rapid Transit Commission yesterday, saying that the subway clear to the Battery, and the Bronx section, would be open and ready to operate by July 15, and he asked permission to begin running trains by that time. The permission was granted.

Mr. Belmont's letter said that, while all the construction work is not done, there is nothing to prevent the running of trains next week.

BUSINESS TROUBLES.

Justice Blanchard, in the Supreme Court, yesterday granted an application for the appointment of a receiver for the partnership property of Samuel Lilliankrantz and Max Halter, manufacturers of embroideries, at No. 193 Canal-st., in a suit brought by Max Halter against his partner, for a dissolution of the partnership.

The Sheriff yesterday sold the costumes and scenery of "A China Doll," under an execution for $526, in favor of the United States Amusement Company. The sale realized $150.

PETITIONS IN BANKRUPTCY.

The following petitions in bankruptcy were filed yesterday with the clerk of the United States District Court:

Mortimer W. Hale, contractor, No. 668 Lexington-ave. and No. 132 East 23d-st.; liabilities, $4,972; assets, $1,099; principal creditor, Charles Reade, No. 406 West 30th-st., $802; assets, cash, $330; accounts, $669; fixtures, $100.

Jacob Schnitzer, No. 226 West 132d-st.; liabilities, $7,255; assets, $30; principal creditor, American Mills Co., $2,252; petitioner member of firm Brush & Schnitzer, dissolved 1895 without assets.

William H. Clarence and Angeline A. Lutes, as Lutes Bros., No. 157 West 84th-st.; liabilities, $2,418; no assets, $1,500; principal creditor, William Williams, Prinketville, N. Y.

Schedules of Julia Mays, debts, $8,361; assets, $100; principal creditors, Star Company, No. 140 Nassau-st., $2,189; H. H. Post Company, No. 213 East 24th-st., $800.

Involuntary petition filed against Consumers' Pickling Company, a corporation, by J. Henry Holstein, Martha J. Sulter, W. A. Everson; claims, $1,507; insolvency admitted.

Edwin M. Cox appointed receiver Kaminsky Bros. & Konnevitz; bond, $500.

Burgwyn Maitland appointed receiver Ernest A. Lange; bond $500.

Fritz Reiss, No. 70 1st-ave.; liabilities, $2,868; assets, $1,067; principal creditor, Gustav Lippman, 128 Bowery, $617; assets, stock of shoes, $1,343; fixtures, $560; accounts, $31; cash, $167.

Frederick Furth, No. 816 East 50th-st.; liabilities, $2,774; assets, $200; principal creditor, Germania Bank, $1,530; assets, household goods, $200.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

A COMPLAINT FROM CROTON FALLS.

Resident Voices Objection of Those About to Lose Their Homes.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It may not be known to many that there are sad hearts in the quiet little village of Croton Falls.

The city of New-York, under pretence of wanting more water, has decided to build a dam half a mile below the village, which will wipe out the place. Not a single house will be left, so that it may be said of Croton Falls as of ancient Troy, "Troja fuit."

If there were no other way of supplying the city with water than by the blotting out of this beautiful place, no one would complain. We would quietly submit to the inevitable. Such is not the case, however, and many do not realize what is implied in being forcibly deprived of house and home. The question now, when we meet each other in the street, is not "How do you do?" but "Where are you going?"

It is indeed a serious matter, especially with those in advanced life who were born here and are most strongly attached to their homes. Money cannot pay for the heartaches and sorrow caused by being forced to take up a new life among strangers. Then again, consider the varied church relations and the sacred ties which bind the people together. How true the hymn,

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love!
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

When we asunder part
It gives us inward pain,

—so the thought of being separated and scattered, no one knows where, is sad.

The people in this place will be like sheep without a shepherd, scattered and driven away from their homes. It is true the city may pay them the so-called "market value" for their houses and lands, but will it be a fair compensation for being driven away from homes to which they are strongly attached?

Is the average award given by the city a fair compensation? In most cases it is not. For instance, a physician, the only one in the place, having a lucrative practice and a delightful home—where is he going? A new practice is to be built up and a new home to establish. Again, here is one who is a tradesman and doing a good business. His home is taken, his store is closed, his customers scattered. Where is he going to locate? Perhaps in some distant town, where he, a stranger, unknown, will have to start anew in life's journey and meet its many battles apart from former friends.

Does the so-called "market value" compensate here?

An article appeared in one of the New-York papers on February 11, written by C. G. Armstrong, civil engineer, in regard to supplying New-York City with pure water from Lake Erie. This seemed entirely feasible and practical. Why the plan which he suggested was not considered and adopted seems very strange, unless politics had something to do with its rejection, which we strongly suspect was the case. As to Mr. Armstrong's qualifications to devise this plan there can be no question, for he is a man of large experience in that line of business. He is a member of the Engineers' Club of New-York City, a graduate of Illinois State University, and, since 1881, has been engaged in civil, electrical and mechanical engineering. For ten years he was engineer of State institutions in Illinois, Wisconsin and South Dakota, and we think that his views ought to have some weight with the public. He proposes that the State of New-York build a large duct along the line of the old Erie canal, at a cost of not over $150,000,000. By having branch outlets to this duct the large cities along this duct could be supplied with water, and in this way lessen the original expense and at the same time furnish New-York City with an abundant supply of pure water for all time.

Without entering into all the details of this plan, which I think commends itself to those who are interested in the sanitary welfare of New-York City, allow me to add in conclusion that in a very few years the city of New-York, by extending into Westchester County, will number 10,000,000 of people, who must all be supplied with water brought from a long distance. Why not adopt the plan of Mr. Armstrong at once, and avoid building these reservoirs which will be needed for the rapidly increasing population?

Perhaps it is too late now to have this plan considered. It seems a great pity that our legislators and the "powers that be" could not have taken sufficient time to investigate a matter which is of such vital importance to the health and welfare of the people of New-York City.

ALBERT CHAMBERLIN.

Croton Falls, N. Y., June 27, 1905.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In The Tribune of June 28 is an article headed, "Old Fire Horses Befriended."

It appears that Nicholas F. Brady and friends "have decided to buy in all the old fire horses in future, so that they may be saved from a life of drudgery."

All true lovers of the noble, faithful animals will be thankful for this good and kind action. It has been a cruel thing to sell the poor beasts after they could no longer serve an ungrateful city.

Mr. Brady is doing what should have been done long ago, and in the name of humanity we thank him and trust his action will be an example in other and needed ways, so that the sufferings of these helpless, patient animals may be lessened in some degree.

I want Mr. Brady to know how glad his thought and deed have made one person, at least. It seems almost too good to be true, and makes one take courage, even in the midst of the unwarranted and unnecessary cruelty we see practised every day. We cannot all do as much as Mr. Brady, but we can all help to make the burden of the dumb and patient animals a little less.

Mrs. THEODORE G. VIETOR.

Brooklyn, June 29, 1905.

ADULTERATION OF FOODS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I have read the interesting articles by Dr. W. E. Biglow, of the United States Bureau of Chemistry, published in The Sunday Tribune. Such articles, in my opinion, do much real good by interesting the people in their food supply.

I admit that many of the tests are not easy of application, especially in a home or where one's knowledge of chemistry is limited, but the real good comes in awakening the people to the danger in adulterated foods, and perhaps will point out the way for a remedy.

The recent article on jellies and jams is particularly interesting, and the tests are all easy of application.

J. CAMB