MAKING FUN OF FEVER.

NEW-ORLEANS IS MERRY.

Win Pools on Number of New Cases —Confidence Restored.

[From a Special Correspondent of The Tribune.]

New-Orleans, August 26.—"This yellow fever fighting resembles real war in a way," said a grizzled, battle scarred Confederate colonel to the Tribune correspondent this morning. "The terror is never at the firing line, where the real danger is. It is fifteen or twenty miles in the rear, where you don't know just what is going on and the imagination magnifies fear."

Such would seem to be the case in New-Orleans to-day. The epidemic has gone through two stages and is beginning on a third. At first a wave of fright passed over the people and there was more or less of a mad rush to get away. Then came a period of endurance, when the people discussed the epidemic seriously and kept their minds off the danger of it as much as possible. Now the third stage is approaching on horseback, and, strange as it may seem, it is the jocular stage.

"Well, did you get stung to-day?" one club man greets another when they meet after business hours.

"If I looked as yellow as you do I wouldn't ask questions," may be the answer.

They are making pools on the number of new cases, the number of deaths, the number of new foci, just as passengers on ocean steamers have pools on the number of miles in the day's run. The Tribune correspondent was lucky enough to win a pool on the new cases yesterday. The spirit is not of callousness, for there is plenty of sympathy for the victims and no end of money available for charities made necessary by the fever.

The St. Charles Hotel, perhaps the finest in the South, is the headquarters for the professional epidemic fighters. The hot weather has caused most of the government surgeons to discard their uniforms and take to the calico suits which can be had at any of the stores for $3 50 a suit. Nearly every one who is any one in New-Orleans, wears one of these suits. The man who has just made a million out of cotton goes around in a suit that a New-York newsboy would scorn,and never gives it a second thought.

Now that the second Marine Hospital surgeon has taken the fever there is much speculation as to who will be the next to go. A majority of the surgeons at work here have never had the fever, yet they are not afraid of it.

Dr. Blue, the surgeon who stamped out the plague in San Francisco, saving that city a great epidemic, walked into the lobby of the St. Charles just before dinner the other evening, with a long face and this gloomy announcement:

"I've got it."

His brother officers were all attention. "When did the chill come on?" "How long has your head been aching?" "Do you know when you were stung?" were some of the questions they asked.

Dr. Blue denied the chill and headache, which was puzzling.

"Tell me, Blue, what is it you've got?"

"Prickly heat," he returned, showing a sadly spotted arm, and then he fled.

PLAGUE OF PRICKLY HEAT.

Nearly all the surgeons who have come from the North are suffering from this pesky trouble, which goes with New-Orleans summer weather. One has to take about three baths a day to keep in anything like a presentable condition. Many of the fighters make use of the fine salt water swimming pool at the Young Men's Gymnasium Club. The salt water comes from a well, which is more than twelve hundred feet deep, and the flow into the big tile lined tank is continuous. The surgeons have cards to all of the exclusive clubs, and only the fact that they have little time for social affairs prevents their being royally entertained.

The "skeeter" theory, the oiling of cisterns and water barre's and other preventive measures adopted by the fever fighters are incomprehensible to the colored population.

An oiling squad was sent to a small settlement near New-Orleans, a few days ago, and oiled everything in sight. Among other cisterns so treated was one belonging to an old colored woman.

"Dese people all is sure plum gone crazy," she was heard to wail. "Jus' think o' spiling all dis good watah wid dat nas'y oil."

"Mammy, aren't you afraid a steg skeeter'll sting you?" asked one of the local physicians of an old colored woman, who was toddling along Canal-st. with a huge basket of clothes on her head.

"No, sah, not a bit, sah," she said. "I puts my trust in de good Lord."

Strangers who come in from the North, under business pressure, have a nervous time of it for the first day or two. There are plenty of mosquitoes about New-Orleans, and they sting like their relatives in New-Jersey or on Staten Island. To the frightened ear of the stranger every hum of a mosquito sounds like the rumbling of an express train when one is in the middle of a long trestle. Then one gets stung and has no way of knowing whether or not the stinger is an infected mosquito until a chill announces yellow fever or its absence proves that the mosquito was healthy.

It does not make a New-Orleans visit any more pleasant to have letters and telegrams from all your friends, begging, commanding, beseeching you to leave this dreadful "pest hole."

MANY CASES AT VAYON PIDGEON.

After being off the map for ten years, Vayon Pidgeon, a little settlement seventy-five miles from New-Orleans, has sprung into prominence again with 100 cases of most malignant yellow fever. Vayon Pidgeon had never been heard of until ten years ago, when William Pitt Kellog, the last Republican Congressman which Louisiana has sent to Washington, was running for re-election. It is a little swamp settlement, and there were so few voters among the fishermen there that the election officials seldom bothered about sending ballots there.

In this campaign the Democrats saw that Kellog was going to carry his district. They said nothing, but invented the Vayon Pidgeon ballot box. Kellog turned in his usual majority of some three or four hundred votes. The election officials waited a day or two and then received a ballot box from Vayon Pidgeon which contained 500 Democratic votes.

The shotgun quarantines in Mississippi and Alabama are supposed to be bullet, ghost and submarine proof. The different counties have quarantines against each other, and so great is the fright of yellow fever that neighbors look askance at each other and forbid their children spooning, for fear of contagion. Yet there have been two striking instances within the week which go to show that there are leaks.

An insane man escaped from an asylum at Jackson, La., and searching parties went out for him. They searched every nook and corner of the parish, for it was not believed that he could possibly have left it, on account of the quarantine. Ten days later they heard from him near Bunkie, 150 miles away. He had passed through seven parishes, and not one of the shotgun guards saw him.

GUARDS PASS LYNCHING PARTY.

Up in Alabama a negro committed an assault and fled through several counties. A large party of heavily armed citizens mounted and started in pursuit. At the border of the county they were halted by a shotgun guard.

"You all go back home," said the quarantine officer. "You don't bring no yeller fever into this county."

"We just going up to the county above to lynch that —— negro, Sam," said the leader of the raiders.

The quarantine guard fell back as if yellow fever was no more dangerous than chilblains. The posse rode through the county and into the next one, where they found their negro. They lynched him and rode back home again. A lynching party surely does have rights.

So many wild stories have been printed in outside newspapers about the fever situation here that New-Orleans is actually pleased to be investigated. The Tribune correspondent has been given every facility. As a preliminary he was taken to the office of the Mayor and sworn in as a special officer. The Mayor handed over a silver badge and a commission duly signed and sealed. It runs until December 1, but unfortunately there is no salary attached.

"This will enable you to go wherever you like in the infected district," said the Mayor. "You can carry a gun, if you like, and make arrests if necessary."

"But I don't know where the jail is," said the correspondent.

"Well, perhaps your first prisoner can tell you," returned the Mayor.

WEARING MOSQUITO BUTTONS.

In addition to the flower and the smile which all good citizens are wearing in this time of trouble, nearly every one you meet has a mosquito badge. In the centre is an enlarged stegomyia, true to life in every detail, even to the zebra striped legs. Around the edge is this inscription:

"My cisterns are all right. How are yours?"

The day before that set by the health authorities for a general fumigation a huge poster in red was spread over the town. It read:

IN A NUT SHELL!
We all know the danger of
YELLOW FEVER
but we become EARNEST ONLY
after it claims our own blood.
INFECTION BY MOSQUITOES
is no longer a theory
but—a proven fact.
GET RID OF THE MOSQUITOES
by burning
SULPHUR FOR FUMIGATION
under the direction of
MARINE HOSPITAL SERVICE.
Start in on
SUNDAY AT 10 A. M.
and keep it up until noon
or later.

It is such spirit as this, reflected in a score of ways, that makes one optimistic regarding the fever situation. J. F. D.

RECORD DEATH RATE.

Thirteen Succumbed to Yellow Fever in New-Orleans Yesterday.

NEW-ORLEANS FEVER RECORD.

New cases yesterday	31
Total cases to date	1,743
Deaths yesterday	13
Total deaths to date	255
New foci yesterday	12
Total foci to date	402
Cases remaining under treatment	199

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

New-Orleans, Aug. 27.—The death rate to-day is one of the highest, so far as it can be compared with any epidemic of yellow fever in the past. There is no way of accounting for the increased number of deaths except by the fact that there has been a very decided change in the weather during the last twenty-four hours. The number of new cases is being held down in good shape, and the situation seems to be thoroughly under control.

In the State the situation continues to grow worse. Eleven cases are reported to-night from Natchez, and that city is said to be in a state of absolute panic.

The controversy between the physicians here and the various health boards is beginning to overshadow everything else in the local situation, and there is an interesting situation coming within the next few days. Dr. Quitman Kohnke, the city health officer, to-night made reply to Dr. Joseph Holt's charges that Dr. Kohnke had allowed yellow fever to exist here without taking the necessary steps to stamp it out.

In answering the letter of Dr. Holt, Dr. Kohnke practically admits that he used the expression charged, "d—— the law," and at the same time says that as yellow fever had already been reported in that year there was no necessity for making any particular mention of Dr. Holt's case.

The probable result of the controversy which has broken out is that the resignations of both Dr. Kohnke and Dr. Souchon will be asked for. The general opinion among the people of the city is that it is most unfortunate that the controversy as to how yellow fever was allowed to enter the city and the reason for it existing here for two months without discovery should have been allowed to crop out at this time, as to a certain extent it will injure the work of the United States Marine Hospital corps.

Dr. R. B. Leach, with the assistance of a brass band and a large number of his disciples managed to get out of town to-day. It is believed that in view of the unappreciative manner in which he has been received here, he will never return.

Quarantine restrictions against New-Orleans were tightened again to-day. The State of Texas decided that the detention camp, which they have established at Echo, can only be used by the Texans who can prove their citizenship of that State.

NO QUARANTINE AGAINST MEMPHIS.

Mississippi Health Board Finds Fever Case Did Not Originate There.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Memphis, Tenn., Aug. 27.—Governor Vardaman and Dr. Hunter, secretary of the Mississippi State Health Board, were in Memphis to-day to determine whether the case of Mrs. Guercio originated in this city, as alleged by Surgeon White, of New-Orleans.

"We give Memphis a clean bill of health. Mississippi will not quarantine against you," said the officials to the Tribune correspondent. "With your local board we have made a thorough investigation and find that it is impossible for the Guercio case to have been contracted in Memphis. There is no fever in this city now nor has there been. Of that we are assured."

The men returned to Jackson to-night.

THE ADIRONDACK OFF TO HAYTI.

New Addition to Island Republic's Navy Sails Under Her Colors.

The former Hamburg-American Line steamship Adirondack, which was sold to the government of Hayti, left her dock, in Hoboken, yesterday, flying the Haytian flag. The Adirondack is intended for Hayti's navy. She was built in Glasgow in 1888, and prior to her purchase was under German registry.

INAUGURATION DATE.

CHANGE DEMANDED.

Governors to Meet in Washington Just Before Congress Convenes.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Aug. 27.—Governors of forty-one States have already joined the movement to postpone the Presidential inauguration after 1909 from March 4 to a later and better date, probably April 30, and the national committee on the proposed change is arranging to meet in Washington in November, just before Congress convenes.

H. B. F. Macfarland, Commissioner of the District of Columbia and chairman of the national committee, has been in correspondence ever since March 4 last with the Governors of States and Territories who, with fifteen residents of the District of Columbia, were asked to serve as members of the national committee. He has up to date secured the consent of forty-one Governors of the States and Territories to serve on the committee and expects that several others will accept this service before the meeting in the fall.

Inevitable delays occur in such correspondence, but the response has been in general so prompt and hearty as to indicate a strong interest in the movement all over the country for a change of Inauguration Day. All the Governors who accepted service expressed approval of the proposition and some of them are especially emphatic in doing so. This indicates that they are prepared to bring the matter before the people and the legislatures of their States in a favorable light, as well as to lend their influence to the operations of the national committee.

The chief function of that committee is to present the matter to Congress in such a way as to secure favorable action. An amendment to the Constitution is necessary, and a joint resolution for that purpose will be drafted and introduced at the opening of the next session. The Senate has twice passed such a resolution unanimously, and it is believed that its chances in the House will be better next session than heretofore.

The death of Senator Bate, of Tennessee, followed by that of Ambassador Azpiroz and that of Judge Weldon, of the Court of Claims, in consequence of exposure on March 4 last, has made a deeper impression as to the dangers of the present inauguration date.

GOVERNORS IN THE COMMITTEE.

A number of the Governors have been members of the committee since 1902, while a number of others have become Governors since then and are new to the committee. The list is as follows:

William D. Jelks, Alabama; George C. Pardee, California; Jesse F. McDonald, Colorado; Henry Roberts, Connecticut; Preston Lea, Delaware; N. B. Broward, Florida; Joseph M. Terrell, Georgia; F. R. Gooding, Idaho; Charles S. Deneen, Illinois; J. Frank Hanly, Indiana; Albert B. Cummins, Iowa; E. W. Hoch, Kansas; J. C. W. Beckham, Kentucky; N. C. Blanchard, Louisiana; William T. Cobb, Maine; Edward Warfield, Maryland; John A. Johnson, Minnesota; Joseph W. Folk, Missouri; J. K. Toole, Montana; John H. Mickey, Nebraska; John McLane, New-Hampshire; Edwin C. Stokes, New-Jersey; Frank W. Higgins, New-York; Robert B. Glenn, North Carolina; E. Y. Sarles, North Dakota; Myron T. Herrick, Ohio; George H. Chamberlain, Oregon; Samuel W. Pennypacker, Pennsylvania; G. H. Utter, Rhode Island; S. H. Elrod, South Dakota; J. I. Cox, Tennessee; John O. Cutler, Utah; C. J. Bell, Vermont; Andrew J. Montague, Virginia; A. E. Mead, Washington; W. M. O. Dawson, West Virginia; R. M. La Follette, Wisconsin; John B. Brady, Alaska; Joseph H. Kibbey, Arizona; Miguel A. Otero, New-Mexico; Thomas B. Ferguson, Oklahoma.

Two vacancies in the list of fifteen residents of the District of Columbia have been filled by the appointment of General John M. Wilson, chairman of the last Inauguration Committee, and John F. Wilkins. The other district members of the national committee are Henry B. F. Macfarland, permanent chairman; James L. Norris, permanent secretary; Thomas W. Smith, John W. Foster, Admiral George Dewey, General Nelson A. Miles, C. J. Bell, S. W. Woodward, C. C. Glover, Frank A. Munsey, John Joy Edson, Theodore W. Noyes and Justice John M. Harlan.

LETTERS OF APPROVAL.

Some of the especially favorable expressions in the letters of the Governors are as follows:

Governor Frank W. Higgins of New York said:

I favor the proposition to change the date of Inauguration Day from March 4 to one in the latter part of April, not alone from consideration of the comfort of the numerous visitors to Washington on that occasion, but for the far more serious one of danger to life, the case of Senator Bate, which you cite, as well as that of the diplomatic representative of Mexico, being in point. I shall be glad to serve upon the national committee having this object in view.

Governor A. J. Montague of Virginia:

I concur entirely in the reasons advanced in your letter for the change of the date; it seems to me imperative. I have also long since thought the President should have more time than is now accorded between the date of his election and his inauguration for the preparation of the duties immediately incident to his assumption of office.

Governor J. Frank Hanly of Indiana:

I am in hearty accord with the effort to change the inauguration date. It ought to be in the latter part of April. It is a matter in which the people of the whole country are interested and about which there seems to me to be no room for debate or serious difference of opinion.

CHANGE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

Governor R. B. Glenn of North Carolina:

I believe that such a change is absolutely necessary for the safety and comfort of the people who desire to attend the inauguration.

Governor F. R. Gooding of Idaho:

I desire to assure you and the members of the national committee that I am heartily in favor of the change of date, as has been previously proposed, and hope that the matter can so be presented that the change will be made before another inauguration occurs. At all times since the matter has been called to my attention I have felt assured that the present date is much too early in a climate such as that of Washington City, and that a little research would show that many deaths and serious cases of sickness have resulted from exposure on that date in the past.

Governor Dawson of West Virginia said:

As requested by you, I beg to say that I think the great majority of people favor a change of Inauguration Day to a date later than March 4. I would suggest May 1. There is some sentiment connected with May Day, and it seems to me that this date would be neither too late nor too early. I suppose the Fourth of July would be too late in the year, but reasons occur to me why this would be a very appropriate day for the beginning of an administration.

Governor T. B. Ferguson of Oklahoma said:

Be assured that I am heartily in accord with the change contemplated by the committee, and feel assured that it will meet with the approval of the entire West.

IN HEARTY ACCORD.

Governor Miguel A. Otero of New-Mexico:

I am heartily in favor of the movement to change the date of the inauguration ceremonies. I believe that a date between May 1 and 15 will be acceptable to the people of the United States and would not endanger the lives of so many prominent persons who attend inaugurations. The first week of March is disagreeable in nearly every section of the United States. I am heartily in favor of a change.

Governor George E. Chamberlain of Oregon said:

A short time since I received a letter asking my views upon the subject of a change of Inauguration Day to a later date, and in answering the inquiry stated that I knew of no good reason why a date which had been adopted years ago as Inauguration Day should be changed. I really had not given the subject any consideration, but in the light of your letter I am forced to admit that strong reasons can be urged for the proposed change. The question of the usual inclemency of the weather during the month of March had not occurred to me, and I can appreciate the dangers which beset the public, who, in order to witness the inauguration of a President, are compelled to be in rain or snow during the whole period covered by the ceremony.

Governor John B. Brady of Alaska:

I should like to be able to do something to help along the effort to make this change. Experience has left no doubt as to the desirableness of another date for this great function.

Governor E. Y. Sarles of North Dakota:

I am heartily in accord with the change of inaugural date as suggested, and will cheerfully concur in the decision arrived at when the matter comes up for final disposal. The change, in my opinion, should be made not only for the valid reasons stated in your letter, but also to accommodate many people who are members of legislatures that are in session at the time of the present inaugural date.

FAVORS APRIL 30.

Governor S. H. Elrod of South Dakota:

It will be a pleasure to aid in any way that I can. It seems to be very necessary that the date should be changed. Personally I am in favor of having the date changed from March 4 to April 30, the day on which Washington was first inaugurated.

Governor John C. Cutler of Utah:

I am strongly in favor of the proposed change to some time in the latter part of April or early in May. The present time, March 4, is inconvenient, as nearly all State legislatures are in session, thus denying the opportunity to many who would otherwise attend the inaugural ceremonies. The unpleasant weather makes it very unpleasant and endangers life and health.

Governor E. W. Hoch of Kansas:

I have long advocated a change of the day and will be glad to co-operate with the Governors of other States in using what influence may legitimately be used to bring about the desired change.

Governor J. M. Terrell of Georgia:

Replying to your letter of the 21st inst., I will say that in my opinion the people of Georgia, at least those who have given the matter thought, are convinced that so important a function as the inauguration of a President of the United States should take place at a season which would not endanger the health and life of the flower of our land—many of whom are attracted to Washington by this most imposing spectacle of our government. Severe and inclement weather detracts in many other ways from the interest in any event, no matter how imposing, and I cannot but think that the interests of the people and their government, as well as their pleasure in this great occasion, would be better subserved by changing the day of the inauguration to a later season, possibly some time in April or May, when Washington can give promise of the best and brightest weather of the year.

SUGGESTS SOME DAY IN MAY.

Governor N. B. Broward of Florida said:

In reply to your question, which is, "Do you favor a change of date for Inauguration Day from March 4 to a later period?" I would say that some day in May would be much better, in my judgment, than March 4. I believe that a great many lives would be spared that are now sacrificed to pneumonia and diseases of that kind, caused by exposure on March 4 at our national inauguration.

Chief Justice C. C. Nott, United States Court of Claims, in response to the resolutions of the bar on the death of Judge Lawrence Weldon, said:

But that day which, needlessly and ruthlessly, is allowed every four years to smite so many, to strike down the young and the aged and bring danger and discomfort to thousands and sickness and anxiety to many an American household—that day gave him his death blow. The brief period which fate then assigned to him witnessed broken health and lessened vitality and withered hopes—a period which has often been assigned to other men—a great pageant at the beginning, pneumonia at the end.

STREET GANGS IN FIGHT.

Arouse Harlem Residents Two Blocks from Police Station.

The police of the East 88th-st. station who were on reserve after midnight yesterday were called out of bed by a crowd of fighting hoodlums, said to be two factions of the Paul Kelly gang, who were filling the air with missiles and bullets at 86th-st. and Avenue B at 1 o'clock in the morning.

Seven of the nine men whom the police managed to capture after a short running fight were yesterday sent to Blackwell's Island for six months by Magistrate Baker, in the Harlem court. Another was held in $1,500 bail for a more serious trial on the charge of being the leader in a riot, and one man was fined $5 for disorderly conduct.

Detectives Regan, Wildenauer and Brogan were the complainants in the Harlem court against the men yesterday morning. They told the magistrate that there were two factions, formerly a part of the Paul Kelly gang, which is making things interesting for the police further downtown, but who had broken away and were now fighting each other. The police expressed the opinion that the meeting in the Harlem streets at 1 o'clock yesterday morning had been in accordance with arrangements for the purpose of fighting out some grudge.

At any rate, the residents of the neighborhood of 86th-st. and Avenue B, only two blocks away from the police station, were awakened from their sleep by yells, pistol shots and the sound of rocks and other missiles falling about. Some put their heads out of windows to see what was up, but quickly put them in again and sought safety in rear rooms when they saw about fifty men in the street, divided into two parties, one party using the buildings at the southeast corner of the intersecting streets to protect them from the missiles of the other, which was about half-way down the block in 86th-st.

The sound of the firing was heard at the police station about the same time that a policeman on post near by rang up on the telephone for help. The reserves were at once sent out. They tried to surround the gangs, but pickets saw them coming and most of the crowd escaped. The police managed to get nine men, eight of whom were undoubtedly among the fighters, and one of whom was hanging about some distance away and was suspected of being a picket.

When the prisoners were taken to the station house they were found to be armed in various ways, a few with guns, but for the most part with improvised blackjacks and clubs.

George Russie, one of the men arrested, was charged with being one of the gang leaders. Magistrate Baker held him in $1,500 bail for trial in the Court of Special Sessions. He was found to have upon him a special brand of bolo, consisting of a lead ball, weighing about a pound, attached to a long copper wire, the end of which had been imbedded in the ball when it was cast. Russie says he is nineteen years old and lives at No. 314 East 84th-st. The seven sent to Blackwell's Island for six months were about the same age as Russie, but lived in the part of the city where the fighting took place.

The police told the magistrate that the gang known as the 86th-st. and 1st-ave. gang had become a menace to the citizens of the neighborhood in more ways than one, and that they were trying to break it up. It was believed that the gashouse gang came up by appointment for a fight.

ALBANY PRISONERS MAKE ESCAPE.

Two Accused, One of Burglary and Other of Murder, Break from Prison.

Albany, Aug. 27.—Two prisoners awaiting trial on charges, one of murder, the other of burglary, escaped this afternoon from the Albany Penitentiary, and are still at large. Cosimo Biele, accused of having shot and killed Thomas Redmond in this city last February, and Thomas Mart, charged with breaking into a local poolroom on the night of July 4, dug their way through the ceiling of their cell about 4:30 this afternoon and escaped over the roof. Their escape was not discovered until supper time.

Mart is believed to be an expert burglar and safe cracker and to have planned the escape. The burglary of which he is accused was committed by climbing a telegraph pole and entering the poolroom through the roof. A general alarm of the escape has been sent to the police throughout this State and New England.

U. S. SURVEY SHIP HANCOCK RAISED.

Detroit, Aug. 27.—The United States survey ship Hancock, which was rammed and sunk by the steamer Binghamton in Lake St. Clair August 20, was raised to-day and towed to Detroit, where she will undergo repairs. The Hancock sank within hailing distance of the lower terminus of the St. Clair ship canal, and had been an annoying impediment to navigation.

KILLED TRYING TO PICK A QUARREL.

While trying to quarrel with his brother, Thomas O'Brien, of No. 131 28th-st., Brooklyn, received injuries which resulted in his death in the Norwegian Hospital last night. He came home in an ugly mood after a visit with some friends, and tried to make his brother Andrew angry. The latter only laughed and ran away. When Thomas followed he fell over a chair and fractured his skull. The brother was arrested on a technical charge by the police of the 4th-ave. station.

FALL OPENING
KNOX HATS
In all the correct
shapes and shades,
To-morrow,
TUESDAY, AUGUST 29.
452 Fifth Ave., cor. 40th St.
194 Fifth Ave., Fifth Ave. Hotel.
and new Store 189 Broadway.
On sale at all agencies throughout the world on the same day.

FLINT'S FINE FURNITURE
FOUNDED 1840 "FLINT QUALITY"
AUGUST SALE
Mahogany and Oak
Dining Room and Bed Room
Suites and Individual Pieces
REDUCED ONE-THIRD IN PRICE
Preparatory to placing on view the large variety of new Autumn Designs in Dining Room and Bed Room Furniture, now being completed in our Factories, and to make the necessary room for the new arrivals, we have reduced one-third in price, all incomplete and sample suites, also individual and odd pieces in discontinued designs.
Affected by these reductions, are:

BEDSTEADS,	EXTENSION TABLES,
CHIFFONIERS,	SIDE BOARDS,
BUREAUX,	SIDE TABLES,
DRESSING TABLES,	CHINA CLOSETS,
DESKS,	LEATHER AND CANE SEAT CHAIRS,
CHAIRS,	BUFFETS.

Worthy of special mention are the Colonial Designs and reproductions in Mahogany, and the distinctive individuality and strength of design, characterizing the furniture in Oak.
GEO C FLINT CO
WEST 23rd STREET

HISTORY OF FRANCHISES

Justice Seabury Presents Arguments for Municipal Ownership.

Justice Samuel Seabury, of the City Court, this county, is the author of a new two hundred page book on "Municipal Ownership and Operation of Public Utilities in New-York City."

Municipal ownership promises to be one of the leading issues of the mayoralty campaign just opening. Justice Seabury gives a brief history of local franchises and tells of their legal character. The gas and electric lighting companies in all the boroughs, what they have done and what has been done to them receive elaborate attention. Another chapter is devoted to the street railways in all the boroughs. Then come chapters on the Rapid Transit Commission, bridges, the functions of government, regulation and control, arguments in favor of public ownership and operation and legal methods by which the city may acquire and operate its public utilities.

In sketching the history of the gas companies the book says in part:

The report of the Thomas committee, in 1885, did good, because it supplied a great deal of information in reference to the dark and crooked ways of the companies. The companies appreciated fully the dangerous character of this report and copies of the report became very scarce. Professor Bemis says that, "according to the belief of many, the companies bought and burned all the copies on the market and hushed up the report most speedily."

The parent company of all the companies which are now merged in or controlled by the Consolidated Gas Company was the New-York Gas Company, which was formed in 1823 with $1,000,000 capital. The Board of Aldermen granted to this company a thirty year exclusive franchise to lay pipes in the streets south of Grand-st. The franchise was given away, as the city received absolutely no compensation. The company charged the consumer $10 a thousand cubic feet for gas.

From time to time the Harlem Gas Light Company, the Metropolitan Gas Light Company, the New-York Gas Light Company, the Anthracite Gas Lighting and Heating Company and the Union Gas Light Company obtained franchises or sold those which they had to others. Thus the New-York Anthracite Gas Lighting and Heating Company did not develop or operate its franchises for eight years. Having obtained them, it held them to sell at a profit, and in 1861 it sold its franchises to the Union Gas Light Company.

It had no lawful right or authority to sell its franchises to the Union Gas Light Company and the latter acquired no valid title. In 1855 the Knickerbocker Gas Light Company came into existence. It acquired its alleged franchise rights by purchase from the owners of the Union Gas Light Company, which had purchased illegally the franchises of the New-York Anthracite Gas Lighting and Heating Company. This company paid its president the moderate sum of $500,000 a year salary.

In 1884 the Consolidated Gas Company was formed. It was a mere "holding company." It possessed no public franchise, but held the stock of, and therefore controlled, the following named companies: New-York, Manhattan, Mutual, Harlem, Metropolitan, Municipal and Knickerbocker gas light companies. It was originally capitalized for $39,675,000, of which $35,430,000 was issued for acquisition of the properties and franchises of the constituent companies, subject to certain indebtedness. The Consolidated Gas Company did not include in its pool the Mutual or the Standard gas company. The Mutual agreed to enter the combination, but was prohibited by a provision in its charter which made its directors liable for a criminal offence if they voted for such combination. The Standard was also prohibited by its charter from consolidating. The Gas Trust, represented by the Consolidated company, circumvented the law by buying the stock of these two companies and thus while avoiding responsibility for a criminal violation of the law accomplished its purpose and reaped the benefits that came from violating the law.

The New-York Edison Company is to the electric lighting industry what the Consolidated Gas Company is to the gas industry. The capital stock of the New-York Edison Company is $45,200,000, which is the aggregate amount of the capital stock of the two constituent companies. This sum represents gross overcapitalization. Bonds were issued by the company until its total outstanding obligations aggregated $40,232,883 80. Witnesses on behalf of the company before the Stevens committee endeavored to make it appear that the company owned valuable patents, trade prospects and equities, but when these nebulous assets were analyzed it was found that a majority of its patents had expired and that all of these items did not exceed $3,159,000. Notwithstanding the enormous and fraudulent overcapitalization of the company, its profits were so large that it paid $2,000,000 interest on its inflated bond debt and accumulated a surplus of $8,000,000.

The veto of Governor Odell alone saved the city of New-York from the enactment into law of the Remsen bill. This bill, in effect, sought to revive and extend every right which the old East River Gas Company claimed to own. It prescribed no period of limitation. It was passed by both houses of the Republican legislature. As it was a bill affecting the interests of the city of New-York, it was sent to Mayor McClellan for approval or disapproval. Private citizens and civic organizations devoted to the welfare of the city explained its true character to Mayor McClellan and protested against it becoming a law.

Notwithstanding that its evil character was made perfectly clear, the bill was signed by Mayor McClellan. So far as Mayor McClellan was concerned, he did everything possible to cause this measure to become a law.

It is no secret that Mr. Charles F. Murphy's influence was responsible for the nomination of Mr. McClellan. In this connection it is interesting to recall that a short time before the Remsen bill was presented to the Mayor for signature a contract valued at several hundred thousand dollars was given by the Gas Trust to the New-York Contracting and Trucking Company.

The New-York Contracting and Trucking Company is controlled by John J. Murphy (the brother of Charles F. Murphy), Mrs. John J. Murphy and Alderman Gaffney.

The contracts which the Gas Trust have made with this company relate principally to work on the new plant at Astoria, and aggregate $756,127 64 in amount.

From the testimony of the officers of the gas companies before the Stevens committee it was proved that gas could be manufactured for 26 cents a thousand cubic feet, and that it could be profitably furnished to the consumer for 32 cents, even if the gas companies added enough to pay interest on an inflated debt and dividends on "watered" stock. Thus, 32 cents a thousand would yield the trust a handsome profit, but the legal rate is $1 a thousand, and Professor Halleck's testimony shows that the people actually pay $2 a thousand.

If New-York City can achieve such splendid results with its public water supply, why could it not be equally successful in the operation of gas or electric plants or its street railways? New-York City has had municipal ownership of its waterworks since 1843.

As to the method by which the city may acquire control of the gas companies, the author says:

Section 73 of the Greater New-York Charter provides as follows: "At the termination of any franchise or right granted by the Board of Aldermen all the rights or property of the grantee in the streets, avenues, waters, rivers, parkways and highways shall cease, without compensation."

So far as the gas companies are concerned, nearly all of the franchises under which these companies operate have expired, and those that have not will shortly expire. The gas companies have no rights in the streets of the city.

The city is not, therefore, obstructed in the course which it should pursue by the necessity of buying out at greatly inflated prices the franchises of the gas companies. As to them, at least, the road is perfectly clear and unobstructed. The existing law permits the city to take one of two courses. If the plant which the gas company has, exclusive of its franchise, is worth having, the city may purchase it upon payment of a "just compensation," or, if it is not worth purchasing, the city may construct an entirely new plant.

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HELD ON SUSPICION OF BURGLARY.

Identified as Man Seen Near Insurance Vice-President's Flat, Which Was Robbed.

Tony Pepe, nineteen years old, of No. 217 St. Ann's-ave., was held by Magistrate Baker yesterday for examination on a short affidavit, charging him with "suspicion of burglary."

Pepe, with his brother Joseph, two years his junior, was arrested Saturday night on the complaint of William S. Sussman, who lives on the third floor of the apartment No. 840 East 137th-st.

Mrs. Sussman is in the country, and her husband, who is vice-president of the People's Life Insurance Company, at No. 32 Union Square, returned to his home late on the evening of August 23. In the lower hall, he says, he passed Tony Pepe, whose clothes bulged suspiciously. When he reached his flat he found the doors open and all the lights burning.

Then he went down to look for Pepe, who had fled. On his description the police arrested the Italian, who was with his brother Joseph at the time. Mr. Sussman identified Pepe as the man he had seen in the hall, but he had no complaint against Joseph. He was therefore discharged.

Pepe denied the charge, saying that he had never been near the flat. None of the articles stolen were recovered. These Mr. Sussman says, include watches, jewelry and clothing valued at more than $1,000.

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