CROKER STRIKES BACK

REPLIES TO RABBI WISE.

Calls Free Synagogue Leader a Notoriety Seeker.

Richard Croker, the former chief of Tammany, may not be in politics again, but in a broadside at Dr. Wise, the rabbi who said that the Freedman dinner attended by a number of justices of the Supreme Court was "a night of shame," he shows that he is ready to give blow for blow. He said yesterday that Dr. Wise was a narrow old man; that he either made a deliberate false statement or was totally ignorant of New York history in the Tweed period. Mr. Croker said he helped drive Tweed out of power, and that Dr. Wise in attacking him, at the same time praising Secretary Root, who was Tweed's attorney, was inconsistent.

Speaking at the dinner of the Ethical-Social League at the Martha Washington Hotel on Tuesday night, and referring to the Freedman-Croker dinner, Dr. Wise said:

Last night was a night of shame for New York City. It was a night of shame for the twelve Supreme Court justices and for Mr. Jerome, who disgraced themselves and dishonored the city by joining in a tribute to the successor of the boodling Tweed and the predecessor of the unspeakable Murphy.

In a formal reply to this attack Mr. Croker last night at the Democratic Club said:

I do not know Dr. Wise. I understand that he was at one time a resident of this state, but has lived many years in Oregon and returned here recently. He is evidently talking of things that he knows nothing about, but it is none the less to be regretted that a rabbi should permit himself to be used as a political buffer to open the Republican campaign of 1909.

I returned to America to visit my home and many dear friends here to whom I am deeply attached. The dinner at which I was the guest and which my friends honored me by attending was a purely private function. Among those present were gentlemen who had been politically opposed to me while I was in power, but who are my friends, and, I hope, always will be. It is generally known that I am out of politics and am here as a visitor, and I had hoped to be free from these political attacks under cover.

I am sorry that Dr. Wise, in his attempt to create a sensation, has seen fit to try to deprive me of the gratification of meeting my friends. Either he makes a deliberate false statement or he is totally ignorant of the history of this city when he attempts to link my name with that of Tweed in an unfavorable light. I may remind him that since 1870, when Tweed was deposed, and for over thirty years out of the thirty-eight years since then, Tammany Hall has been in control of the affairs of this, the greatest city in the world. I was prominently identified with that great leader Samuel J. Tilden in the overthrow of Tweed and the destruction of his power.

I am told that this proclivity of Dr. Wise to use the pulpit to exploit his political views caused him (and I think justly) to lose a place in a prominent Jewish pulpit in New York which he was very anxious to secure. The American people do not want to see their churches and synagogues desecrated in exploiting any man's political bias.

In spite of Mr. Croker's characterization of Dr. Wise as a "narrow old man," the rabbi is now thirty-eight years old. Mr. Croker stepped down as leader of Tammany Hall in 1901. Dr. Wise is the son of the late Dr. Aaron Wise, for twenty-one years the rabbi of the Temple Rodeph Sholom, of this city. Dr. Stephen S. Wise is a graduate of Columbia University, of the class of '92. From 1893 to 1900 he was rabbi of the Madison Avenue Synagogue. This period covered much of Mr. Croker's rule of Tammany Hall. From 1900 to 1906 he was rabbi of Temple Beth-Israel, of Portland, Ore. The "prominent Jewish pulpit" which Mr. Croker says Dr. Wise lost because of "his proclivity to exploit his political views" is evidently that of the Temple Emanu-El.

A member of the Temple Emanu-El congregation said: "It is true that before Dr. Wise left Portland, Ore., he was an applicant for the place made vacant by the death of Dr. Gottheil, and he came here and addressed the congregation, like many other candidates, for the desirable place. Many members of the congregation were favorably disposed toward him, and the question of his engagement was under consideration for some time. It became known, however, that Dr. Wise refused to comply with some of the demands on the part of the board of trustees, described their attitude toward him as 'muzzling' him, and negotiations were broken off. Dr. Wise then resigned his Portland charge and came to New York and organized the Free Synagogue, which has made great progress under his pastorate."

Supplementing this in an informal talk with the newspaper men, Mr. Croker said:

"I don't want to get into a controversy with such a narrow old man as Rabbi Wise, who begrudges me the welcome of my old friends. Rabbi Wise may be a Republican socialist all right, as he calls himself, but he has no right to be called a true socialist. I'm sorry for him—sorry for a poor old man who has no more strength of mind than to sell himself to the Republican party. He calls me the successor of Tweed. Yes, I did succeed Tweed. Some one had to. He was driven out of power with my help, and that is how I succeeded to the leadership. Did I ever stand for Tweed? No, sir. I was against him, and I was glad to be able to help beat him. And I wish to say to this Republican-Socialist rabbi, there must have been incompetent prosecutors in this city if I am fit to be put in the same boat with Tweed."

After lighting a fresh cigar and sauntering up and down the corridor Mr. Croker continued:

"I notice that Wise has nothing but praise for Roosevelt and Root. He has a motive. I have nothing against Root, but I remember that he was counsel for Tweed. Wise doesn't call him any names, though. He says I am to be blamed, and ties me up with Tweed, and he has nothing but praise for Tweed's lawyer, Root."

Then Mr. Croker was asked about the assertion by Rabbi Wise that Mr. Croker's presence here is a sign of Tammany aggression in the mayoralty campaign.

"I say yes to that," said Mr. Croker. "Wise is right there. If I could strengthen the hands of my party, if I could cause to be dropped all personal differences, it would give me the greatest pleasure of anything I could do."

After more sauntering Mr. Croker resumed:

"I don't want it thought that I mean to take any active part in politics again, for I do not. I have made that plain."

With the Wise episode out of the way, temporarily at least, Mr. Croker began to talk about traffic congestion in Fifth avenue and suggested the cutting through of a new avenue parallel with Fifth avenue between Fifth and Sixth avenues. The traffic in the avenue passes in front of the Democratic Club, and Mr. Croker has been studying it since his visit here.

"There is only one thing that can be done to clear up the crowded traffic in Fifth avenue. I believe that there ought to be another avenue cut parallel with Fifth avenue and half a block west of it. The block between Fifth and Sixth avenues is 800 feet long. Half way down the block another avenue ought to be opened, running from Broadway, near 26th street, up to 59th street. Let the land needed be condemned and the cost be borne by the whole city. I don't know what the cost would be, but I do know that the advantages to the city would be worth the cost twice over. In two years from now traffic won't be able to move any more in Fifth avenue unless it goes all in one direction, with another avenue used exclusively for the traffic in the opposite direction. Something will have to be done soon. The increase in real estate values would be far beyond what was needed to pay the expenses of cutting the avenue through."

Dr. Wise replied last night to Mr. Croker's broadside. He said:

The citizens of New York are under obligations to Mr. Croker, who has rendered this city a real service. His return amid the jubilations of his one-time followers and the adulation for their long exiled hero on the part of many representatives of the high judiciary will serve to crystallize the rising revolt for all that is decent and clean in New York citizenship against the threatened renewal of the reign of Crokerism.

I cannot put it too clearly that I believe the city of New York was betrayed on Monday night by the justices of the Supreme Court, who ought ever to be foremost in sustaining New York's honor. There are two explanations to be offered for the presence of the judiciary at the dinner to Mr. Croker: Either the judges are so lost to a sense of fitness as to be unable to realize the indecency of joining in a tribute of honor to Richard Croker, or else, as I in charity wish to believe, they were not free to absent themselves from a function in honor of the man who had created them.

It is but too true, as New York knows, that many of our judges are the creatures of the political bosses. It is to the bosses that many of them owe their elevation to office, and it is saddening to think that the presence of the judiciary at the Croker dinner was in partial payment for past favors and in lively expectation of favors to follow from the guest of the evening or his not unworthy successor.

No decent, self-respecting citizen of New York can fail to grieve over the truth that in the main the places on the bench of New York are dispensed by one who only a few years ago dispensed from the bar.

As long as the former chieftain of Tammany Hall was discreet and tactful enough to keep himself secluded in his transatlantic estate it would have been unseemly to single him out for public obloquy. Even to-day no one can find fault with the hero of Monday night's feast. The condemnation of New York must be visited not upon him whose record is a part of our municipal history, but upon those trustees of the city's honor who violated their trust by doing honor to him whose name must ever be a byword for civic wrong and civic shame.

I have not always lived in the city of New York. I have lived in the Far West long enough to know that New York's example in everything affecting the higher interests of the nation, is of decisive influence in shaping our national life. Hence I am not only jealous of the honor of New York, which has been trailed in the dust, but I am thinking as well of the moral life of the whole nation, which it is the privilege of our great city to shape to higher issues.

TO "PURIFY" THE NEGRO.

Sir Harry Johnston for Miscegenation with Near Whites.

[By Telegraph to the Tribune.]

Mobile, Dec. 2.—Sir Harry Johnston, of London, who is making a study of the negro problem in the South, recently visited Tuskegee and met Booker T. Washington and several of the leaders of his institution. He was much impressed, and said he thought it was a pity that negroes with only a touch of black blood should be forced to associate with pure bloods of their race.

Sir Harry said he thought such almost white negroes should receive a "ticket of leave" from their race and be allowed to keep themselves separate, and even purify their blood by intermarriage with whites, eliminating in time all trace of the old stain.

He said that, although he was without the slightest tinge of race prejudice, he did not believe such so-called republics as Hayti ought to exist without the directing care of some white government. He asserted that the ultimate end of Hayti would be American intervention and the establishment of just such supervision there as exists over the customs and other departments of the Dominican government.

Concerning the negroes of America, he said that he would not advise them to leave their homes and go to Africa, as he thought they were vastly better off here than they would be if they returned to Liberia.

Sir Harry has already visited Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama, and will go from here to Cuba and other West Indian countries.

POWDER TRAP AVOIDED.

Government Lacks Evidence, but Does Not Grant Immunity.

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 2.—Hearings in the suit of the government against the E. I. du Pont de Nemours Powder Company and allied concerns, charged with restraint of trade, were resumed before Special Master William G. Mahaffy to-day.

The defence was to have produced certain books and records, but they were not forthcoming, and at the noon recess James Scarlett, special prosecutor for the government, announced that he had received work from the powder company that the books and records could only be obtained by issuing subpœnas for T. Colman du Pont, Pierre S. du Pont and Jonathan Haskall, president, vice-president and treasurer, respectively, of the powder company. By issuing such subpœnas, it is claimed, Mr. Scarlett would be giving immunity to the three men who are named as defendants in the case, and he declared that the government would prepare its case without the books and records.

H. G. Nicholl, of New York, testified that he was told to get the trade of the Rockdale Powder Company, of Maryland, even if he had to cut the prices to do so. The witness told of influencing the men employed on construction work by buying them drinks and cigars and occasionally giving them money so that their reports on his demonstrations would be favorable.

Nicholl said that these expenses were allowed by T. F. Hamlin, the general sales agent in New York. The witness related an instance where he was told to get one concern's business regardless of the price it had been paying for explosives. He said he got the business, but he was not sure as to the price.

GOOD MUSIC NEEDED IN THE HOME.

Walter Damrosch Says There Is Much Discord in the American Family.

[By Telegraph to the Tribune.]

St. Louis, Dec. 2.—"There is more domestic discord in the American family than in that of any other country on the globe, and I believe it is because there is not enough cultivation of the finer things of life," said Walter Damrosch, of New York, this evening. "There is little family music or art of any kind, and it is small wonder that elements of discord enter when there is nothing more diverting than calculation of the cost of butter, eggs and bacon."

Mr. Damrosch said that coarse or vulgar music will not suffice. He said that the strains of "The Merry Widow" or "Waltz Me Around Again, Willie," will not assist to any great extent in putting the family into a proper "homey" mood.

UNION CITY OFFICERS IN CONTEMPT.

Nashville Authorities Will Not Give Up Suspected Reelfoot Night Riders.

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 2.—Judge Thomas E. Matthews in the Circuit Court here to-day surprised the state's attorney from Union City, who is here to secure the return to Obion County of eight alleged Night Riders to answer to indictments charging them with the murder of Captain Quentin Rankin, by holding that the sheriff, the attorneys and every one in any way connected with the service of capiases on the prisoners were guilty of contempt of this court. He further stated that the technical arrests made yesterday of the prisoners in jail were illegal.

The county grand jury at Union City to-day returned sixty-two true bills in the Night Rider cases, directing the clerk of the court to keep secret all names until the indictments are recorded. The reason for secrecy is that a number of those indicted have not yet been arrested.

RESERVOIR WILL WIPE OUT VILLAGES.

Glens Falls, N. Y., Dec. 2.—Preparatory work in carrying out the plans for safeguarding the new barge canal from insufficiency of water supply in dry seasons has been begun by surveyors of the State Engineer's force, who to-day started a survey of land in the northern part of Warren County, where it is proposed to construct a big storage reservoir. This will be drawn on to supply the canal during drouths. The proposed reservoir will cover the sites of the villages of Chestertown, Horicon and South Horicon, and will make necessary the removal of hundreds of houses.

WOMAN DEAD AT AGE OF 102 YEARS.

Utica, N. Y., Dec. 2.—Mrs. Catherine Van Allen, Oneida County's oldest resident, died at her home here last night at the age of 102 years, after three days' illness, the first she had ever known. Her father was a full blooded Mohawk Indian, and her mother half Indian and half negro, had been stolen from slavery by her father. Her uncles lived to be 115 years old, and Mrs. Van Allen had hoped to attain that age.

CUT TIME OF CONTINENTAL TRAINS.

St. Paul, Dec. 2.—The Great Northern and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy roads will install a through passenger train service from Chicago to the Pacific Coast next spring, reducing the running schedule seven hours, to meet the competition of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul when that road completes its extension to the Pacific Coast, and the competition of the Union Pacific road. The Oriental Limited, which now runs from St. Paul to Seattle in sixty hours, will make the run in fifty-five hours.

NEW 500-FOOT VESSEL FOR THE LAKES.

Detroit, Dec. 2.—The Great Lakes Engineering Works, of this city, has closed a contract to build a bulk freight steamer, five hundred feet long, to be added to the Canadian fleet of the Inland Navigation Company, of Hamilton, Ont. The ship is to be delivered next spring.

MAYOR TO LOYAL LEGION

Says Great Heritage Left to Union Is Conservatism.

The commandery of the State of New York of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion dined last night at Delmonico's and listened to an address by Mayor McClellan, son of "Little Mac," in which he said the great heritage left to the Union by the men who wore the blue and the gray was "conservatism." The Mayor said that if the time should ever come in which the people, as a whole, should decide that in general government supervision was to be found the panacea for the ills from which they believed themselves to be suffering "anarchy would come to the fore under its mask of socialism."

Brevet Brigadier General Anson G. McCook presided, and introduced the Mayor as "The son of 'Little Mac,' under whom most of us served and whom we all loved, who is here not only as the son of his father, but by his own right, being himself a companion of the legion." An outburst of applause followed. When it had died away Mayor McClellan said:

The men who followed Washington, who fought at Saratoga and at Monmouth and at Yorktown, who starved at Valley Forge, who pledged their lives, their liberty and their sacred honor for principle, took with them into private life the spirit of '76 that dominated our country during its first half century. And in 1861 the spirit of '76 urged the North and the South alike to appeal to the red arbitrament of the sword in the cause that both deemed right. And the spirit of '76, merged in the spirit of the Civil War, emerged at the war's close revivified and reincarnate in the spirit of modern American progress. Every man who was a soldier, whether he wore the blue or whether he wore the gray, whether he wore the stars of the general or carried the sticks of the drummer, once the war was over went out into the world an apostle of law and order, an apostle of peace with honor, an apostle of conservatism.

The horrors of reconstruction, brought about by those who had offered to the Union their voices rather than their lives, were checked by the sentiment of the soldier vote, for men who have faced each other on the field of battle never bear ill will. The influence of the conservatism of two millions of soldiers scattered over the Union brought us successfully through the period of extravagance and inflation that followed the Civil War, saved us from a war with France and a war with Chili, and carried us to victory in a war with Spain.

The spirit of '61 is as much needed to-day as it was in the lustrum which was yours. In these days of stupendous national wealth and development, of economic change so rapid as to be bewildering, men discover new diseases in the body politic for the sake of applying ready made remedies. Every momentary evil, every passing cloud, is viewed by a large part of our people through a microscope and exaggerated into an impending national calamity. The remedy which is always suggested, and unfortunately always at hand, is legislation. Many of us have hypnotized ourselves into the belief that Congress can accomplish anything, provided it legislates early enough and often enough.

This passion for trying to cure all the political, economic, social, moral and physical ills of humanity by legislation would be as absurd as it is futile, were it not that it gives direct encouragement to the forces of lawlessness and disorder.

If a majority of the American people ever is convinced that the millennium can be achieved by legislation, anarchy, under its favorite alias of socialism, will seize its opportunity.

The hope of the nation is in the innate spirit of conservatism which is bred in the bone of the American people, which we have inherited from you, and which every one of you has constantly, either consciously or unconsciously, been preaching ever since 1865. The impulse toward conservatism which was given to our country by the combined effort of all the survivors of the Civil War was so great that it will endure as long as the memory of its authors is cherished in the hearts of our people.

The great victory achieved by the man who wore the blue and the man who wore the gray was not in conquering the other, but in conquering himself. And we hold equally in loving memory and honor the man who wore the blue and the man who wore the gray, not only that they fought for principle, but that after the smoke of battle had cleared away they went home and lived and worked for principle.

An interesting feature of the evening was the reading of a paper by Colonel Ralph E. Prime in relation to "An Incident in the Alabama Claims Arbitration." Colonel Prime outlined the succession of acts and public utterances in Great Britain, which, during the early days of the Civil War, gave evidence of hospitality toward the federal government on the part of officials of the British Empire. "Fortunately," he said, "the change of attitude on the part of Great Britain toward us has been such that a repetition of these is impossible."

PAGE ON P. S. C. POWERS.

Comments on Ease with Which Telephone Trust Issues Bonds.

Senator Alfred R. Page, who introduced the Public Service Commissions law in the Legislature and this year tried to have the law amended to bring telegraph and telephone companies under the jurisdiction of the commissions, issued this statement last night.

This week's bond issue of the American Telegraph and Telephone Company, more commonly designated the Telephone Trust, furnishes an example of what would be prevented by proper state regulation of these companies. It is announced that $50,000,000 additional 4 per cent bonds have been sold to a syndicate composed of J. P. Morgan & Co., Kuhn, Loeb & Co., Kidder, Peabody & Co. and Baring Bros. & Co. It is further stated that the syndicate got the bonds at 91, or 3½ points lower than the price of the $100,000,000 bonds floated a year ago. Experience with these syndicate transactions indicates that if the bonds are being underwritten at 91 the bankers may be getting them at still less, and, at any rate, there is reason to believe that the company is paying 10 or 12 per cent for money.

Of course the public must pay for this financing. The public has a right to know whether the $50,000,000 is needed for improvements and proper extensions or only for the demands of frenzied finance. The state should exercise its authority to examine all these proposed bond issues, and no public service corporation should be permitted to issue stock or bonds without the approval of the Public Service Commission. If the Legislature had passed at the last session the bill putting telegraph and telephone companies under state regulation this $50,000,000 bond issue would have been subjected to proper scrutiny in the public interest. Because that bill was not passed any disregard of public interest in connection with such a bond issue can be brought to light only by what Governor Hughes has aptly called a "post mortem" examination.

DIXON SEEKS DIVORCE.

Jersey City's Counsel Files Petition on Statutory Grounds.

A petition for absolute divorce was filed with the clerk of the Chancery Court at Trenton yesterday by Warren Dixon, corporation counsel of Jersey City, on statutory grounds. Mrs. Dixon was Miss Eleanor Bentley. Mr. Dixon asks for the custody of the children, Jonathan Dixon, sixteen years old; Margaret, fifteen years; Eleanor, twelve years, and Warren, eight years. The oldest child is named after his grandfather, the late Supreme Court Justice Jonathan Dixon.

The petition shows that the pair were married in 1891 and separated December 23, 1907. The acts complained of are alleged to have taken place at Summit and Elizabeth. Attached to the petition is an order signed by Chancellor Pitney, in compliance with which the testimony of Lilly Johnson, formerly a servant in the Dixon family, was taken before Theodore Ruroda in Jersey City last Saturday. This order was granted on the representation that the witness was about to leave the state. The petitioner names Thomas A. Alton, address unknown, as corespondent.

TO PLEAD ADOLESCENT INSANITY.

Defence of Boy Who Killed His Mother—Expert Testimony in Toledo Trial.

Toledo, Dec. 2.—Adolescent insanity will be the defence of Harvey Hazel, the seventeen-year-old boy accused of killing his mother and now fighting for his life against an indictment charging first degree murder.

This will make expert testimony necessary, and one of those who will probably be called is President Hall of Clark University, Worcester, Mass., recognized as an authority on adolescence. All the psychological features of the Hazel case have been submitted to President Hall. He has written a statement for the defence, and he will likely be brought to Toledo to take the witness stand in behalf of the boy.

To-day, for the first time since his arrest, young Hazel showed emotion. While being questioned by Superintendent Leonard of the Ohio State Reformatory at Mansfield, the boy broke down and seemed to realize the enormity of his crime. But soon after he regained his composure and appeared calm. The state has thirty witnesses and the defence fifty. The jury has not yet been completed.

CITY WASTES QUARTER

Witness at Investigation of Finances Criticises Purchases.

New York could save twenty-five per cent of the fifteen million dollars spent each year by the various departments for supplies if ordinary big corporation business methods were used, according to Frederick A. Cleveland, technical director of the Bureau of Municipal Research, who testified yesterday before the legislative committee investigating the finances of the city.

Mr. Cleveland testified that contracts were "unbalanced," favoring particular bidders through poorly classified proposals, so that ordinary tradesmen did not find it to their advantage to bid. He asserted that unless contractors had personal influence the payment of their bills was often delayed for five or ten years. In some cases, he said, the creditors became discouraged and gave up efforts to collect.

"In the Water Department," Mr. Cleveland said, "I found a case where a requisition had been made for a supply which was enough to last ten years. The following year the requisition was repeated. The first supply was bought several years ago, and some of it has not yet been touched. In many of the departments no record is kept of the stock on hand, nor of goods lent to contractors nor of the loans being repaid.

"The same condition prevails in the schools. I am informed that high and other school closets contain thousands of books which would be acceptable to instructors, but instructors don't even know they are there."

Assemblyman Merritt asked if the witness thought the grouping of goods in proposals was done for an illegitimate purpose.

"I do not care to answer that," said the witness, "but the committee can draw its own conclusions. The specifications are usually so badly drawn up that it is impossible to tell what they mean. There is so much looseness that a real bidder cannot know what he is bidding on. This prevents competition."

WILLS CITY $187,746.

Legacy from Mrs. Betsy Head May Give New Playground.

A legacy of $187,746 84 from Mrs. Betsy Head, of Islip, Suffolk County, will enable the city to create a new playground for city children. The site tentatively chosen is adjoining Corlears Hook Park. It will be called the "Betsy Head Playground." Corporation Counsel Pendleton has turned the legacy over to the City Chamberlain, and Mayor McClellan said yesterday that the city would at an early date take action with reference to carrying out the terms of the will.

Mrs. Head's will was drawn on December 10, 1906. She cut off her daughter Lena with only $5, giving her estate half to the city (Manhattan Borough) and the other half in equal shares to several institutions.

The will says that the city's portion of the estate shall be used for the purchase and improvement of grounds for the purposes of health and recreation within or near the city, or for the general purposes of the city, if the city should be unable at the time the will takes effect to accept the bequest for the purpose outlined by the testator.

"There is not enough money in the legacy to create an entire new park, but we can arrange a memorial playground and name it for the giver," said the Mayor yesterday.

PEACE ADVOCATES DINE.

Senator McCreary Guest of Honor—President's Letter Read.

General James Grant Wilson, vice-president of the Peace Arbitration League, gave a dinner last night in honor of Senator James B. McCreary, of Kentucky, president of the league, at Delmonico's, Fifth avenue and 44th street. Senator McCreary explained to the guests the present status of the movement for arbitration as a substitute for war and outlined the work which the league hopes to perform. Impromptu remarks were made by several guests evincing entire sympathy with Senator McCreary's position.

As the Senator explained, the league wishes to pursue an eminently practical programme, and, in the first place, favors a more adequate army and navy for this country in view of the attitude of the heavily armed nations of Europe, which prefer at this time to reserve from general treaties of arbitration all questions of fact and all questions of law which affect the vital interests or the honor of either contracting party or any interest of a third power. The programme is as follows:

Adequate armament and effective arbitration as correlative agencies for national security and for international peace and justice.

Adequate armament, necessitating an unquestionably superior power in our territory and in the waters adjacent to our possessions in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Effective arbitration, necessitating agreements between all nations to respect each other's territory and sovereignty therein, and to arbitrate all other questions.

President Roosevelt has emphasized his approval of this programme by accepting the honorary presidency of the league. A letter from Mr. Roosevelt to the president, sent on May 30, was read. "I cordially sympathize with your announced purpose to secure present protection for the nation and at the same time make as rapid progress as possible toward permanent world peace," he wrote.

Admiral Dewey is also an honorary president of the league. Among the guests at the dinner last night were Isaac N. Seligman, James Talcott, Selden Twitchel, of Philadelphia, Professor John Bates Clark, of Columbia; Hart Lyman, Charles Sprague Smith, Alfred Bullowa, Ralph M. Easley, W. D. Walker, secretary and treasurer of the league, and Hamilton Holt.

FIRES RESULT FATALLY.

Woman Burned to Death and Man Not Expected to Live.

Two persons were fatally burned in their homes yesterday in different parts of the city. Mrs. William Becker, of No. 36 Pine street, Brooklyn, died in the afternoon from burns and suffocation a few minutes after two firemen had risked their lives to rescue her from her room in the burning building. It is believed that Mrs. Becker's dress caught fire from the stove in the kitchen, where she was ironing.

During a fire in his apartment on the second floor of No. 174 West 4th street last night John Fallon, a laborer was fatally burned about the head, breast and hands. He was removed to St. Vincent's Hospital, where it was said he would probably die.

FOURTH SUIT OVER SIRE WILL.

Clarence D. Sire Now Brings Action to Have Instrument Set Aside.

Clarence D. Sire, youngest son of Benjamin Sire, the real estate operator, who died in 1907, leaving property valued at more than $1,000,000, brought suit yesterday to break the will of his father, who left most of his estate to his eldest son, Albert T. Sire.

The contestant asserts that because the will was drawn in the office of his brother Albert, undue influence was brought to bear upon his father, who was then seventy-nine years old.

This is the fourth suit, one being for the revocation of the decree of probate, on the ground that Clarence D. Sire was not served with a citation, and two others, brought in New Jersey and Suffolk County, demand a partition of the estate.

FIVE BURNED TO DEATH.

Scranton, Penn., Dec. 2.—Fire late to-night destroyed the clothing and jewelry store of Anthony Shapiro, at Dickson City, a suburb, five members of the family being burned to death. Mr. Shapiro, a son and daughter and Mrs. Shapiro's parents lost their lives. Mrs. Shapiro and two other children escaped by leaping from second story windows.

AERONAUTICS AND WAR.

Achievements in Navigating Air Told in Picture and Lecture.

Lieutenant Frank P. Lahm, of the United States Army signal corps, traced by pictures thrown upon a screen in the auditorium of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers last night the history of the struggle for the "conquest of the air" during the last 125 years. The audience, which was the largest ever assembled in the auditorium in West 39th street, was composed largely of women. The moving pictures of the Wright brothers' aeroplane circling the field at Fort Myer, Virginia, were greeted with applause. At the close of the lecture Professor F. R. Hutton, honorary secretary of the society, said:

"The American Society of Mechanical Engineers must from to-day recognize its own responsibility in the solution of this absorbing problem of dynamic flight."

Major George O. Squier, acting chief of the United States Army signal corps, held one thousand members of the society deeply interested yesterday morning by his paper on "The Present Status of Military Aeronautics."

"Whatever may be the influence of aerial navigation upon the art of war," said the major, "the fact which must be considered at present is that each of the principal military powers is displaying feverish activity in developing this auxiliary as an adjunct to the military establishment.

"The identical reasoning which has led to the adoption of a policy of providing for increasing our navy year by year to maintain our relative supremacy on the sea is immediately applicable to the military control of the air. If the policy in respect to the navy is admitted there is no escape from the deduction that we should proceed in the development of ships of the air on a scale commensurate with the position of the nation.

"The following is the declaration signed by the delegates of the United States to the Second International Peace Conference, held at The Hague, June 15 to October 19, 1907, prohibiting the discharge of projectiles and explosives from balloons, ratified March 10, 1908:

"The contracting powers agree to prohibit, for a period extending to the close of the third peace conference, the discharge of projectiles and explosives from balloons or by other new methods of a similar nature.

who signed this agreement, and an analysis of the text of the agreement itself shows that no serious attempt was made to settle the question finally.

"The United States is, therefore, in a treaty by itself.

"For instance, while the war balloon may not discharge projectiles or explosives from above, yet no reciprocal provision is made preventing such war balloon from being fired upon from the earth below, yet the law of self-defence evidently obtains.

"If a nation can submerge a mine for the destruction of ships from underneath the water, why can it not drop an aerial mine upon a ship from above? And if it should be allowed to drop an aerial mine upon an enemy's fortified ship at sea, it certainly should be allowed to drop such an aerial mine upon a fortified place on land.

"It is believed that the perfection of ships of the air for military purposes will materially contribute, on the whole, to make war less likely in the future than in the past."

OBJECTS TO LOW STREET.

Car Line in 42d Street Would Suffer, Says Receiver.

A public hearing on the plan to depress the surface tracks in 42d street under Fifth avenue was held yesterday in the Controller's office by the committee of the Board of Estimate, consisting of the Controller, the Corporation Counsel, the chief engineer of the board and the engineer of street openings of the bureau of highways of the Borough of Manhattan.

A representative of Messrs. Hawk and Wetherbee, proprietors of the Manhattan Hotel, appeared to protest against the measure on the ground that the hotel business would be injured by the greater congestion which would result at the tunnel opening directly in front of the hotel. He further declared that the hotel management had to pay out $30,000 for actual changes made necessary by the building of the subway.

"That was certainly an outrage," declared Controller Metz, referring to the subway inconvenience all along 42d street, "but you needn't worry about subways now. There won't be any more for a long while, although we have thirty-nine of them on the map in blue pencil."

Mr. Robinson, for Frederick W. Whitridge, receiver of the 42d street railroad, said that the car business would be interfered with by passengers at Fifth avenue not being able to get into the cars at that point. He said it would divert much traffic to the Sixth avenue elevated. Mr. Robinson said that the crosstown traffic was about twenty thousand a day, and that nearly 20 per cent of the passengers boarded the cars at Fifth avenue. Corporation Counsel Pendleton disputed him when he said he doubted the right of the city to change the street level without permitting the abutting property owners to put in claims for damages.

Chief Engineer Lewis said that the roadway would be widened from forty to sixty-eight feet, and declared that the Manhattan Hotel is now encroaching fifteen feet beyond the house line. Chief Engineer Withington, of the Finance Department, presented a chart giving the figures for widening of the roadway. His chart also showed that the number of vehicles, more than half of them surface cars, passing along 42d street, without turning into Fifth avenue, is about 25 per cent as great as the number of vehicles passing along Fifth avenue without turning into 42d street.

Another hearing will be held next Wednesday afternoon.

MRS. COATES WANTS HER TRUNK.

Former Mrs. "Jack" Wilmerding Says Husband Has Her Belongings.

A woman, who told Lieutenant Miller that she was Mrs. "Jimmy" Coates, formerly Mrs. "Jack" Wilmerding, appeared at the West 125th street station last night, and asked that a patrolman be sent to No. 52 Bradhurst avenue, where her husband lives, to compel him to give up a trunk which she said belonged to her. She said she was now living at the Colonial Hotel, 81st street and Columbus avenue.

Lieutenant Miller told her he could not send a patrolman with her, and advised her to go to court and get a summons for her husband.

BROOKLYN DETECTIVES ON THE GRILL.

Inspector McCafferty Tells Them to Wake Up and Find the Crooks.

The failure of Brooklyn detectives to solve the mystery of the Taintor robbery in South Brooklyn resulted in a visit by Inspector McCafferty to the State street headquarters yesterday.

"I came over here to inject a little tabasco sauce into you," said the head of the city's detective force to the line-up of fifty men. "You must wake up, find out the crooks who make Brooklyn their home and keep your eyes on them. If this isn't done there'll soon be a bunch of men here walking the pavements."

Inspector McCafferty will spend a week in Brooklyn in his efforts to increase the efficiency of its detective force.

ARNOLD PRINT PROPERTY SOLD.

Bennington, Vt., Dec. 2.—What was expected to be the last stage before the formal act of reorganization of the properties allied to the Arnold Print Works of North Adams, Mass., took place in the county court house here to-day, with the offering for sale at public auction of the North Pownal Manufacturing Company, of North Pownal. The property sold for $150,000, the minimum figure set by the court, the purchaser and only bidder being C. W. Jones, president of the New England National Bank, of Boston, who represented the creditors' committee.

LABOR FAMINE THREATENS AKRON.

Akron, Ohio, Dec. 2.—The sudden renewal of business activity here promises a labor famine for the near future. Hundreds of men are being put to work. At a Chamber of Commerce meeting to-day rubber manufacturers stated that two thousand additional men would be needed soon, and that they did not know where to find them. Automobile tire factories are said to be working day and night to fill orders.

CLARK MAKES CHARGES

Continued from first page.

for the good of the wool manufacturers of the United States.

Ex-Representative Charles H. Grosvenor was one of the important witnesses. He appeared for the wool growers of Ohio.

"You can't reduce the duty on wool as it stands without destroying the industry," he told the committee. "The industry is now fairly profitable."

As an argument in favor of the retention of the present duty on wool General Grosvenor said that under the low rate of duty imposed on wool by the Wilson bill the number of sheep raised in one county of Ohio decreased from 153,000 to 92,000 within four years. Representative Clark later obtained the admission from Mr. Grosvenor that this reduction was partly due to the increased value of land in Ohio.

The sheep breeders of New York were represented by E. E. Dane, of Avon, N. Y., who said that the present tariff on wool was the lowest under which the sheep industry could survive.

Theodore Justice, of Philadelphia, who said that he represented the consumer, said that the existing tariff was satisfactory as a revenue producer, that it fostered the wool industry and that the cost of clothing to the masses was cheaper to-day than under free wool, when quality was considered.

Brown S. Stuart, representing the textile workers of Philadelphia, in advocating protection, got into an argument with Representative Bourke Cockran, of New York.

Mr. Cockran, in endeavoring to prove that the wages paid labor had not increased in proportion to the profits of various industries, was referring to the steel business, when Mr. Stuart said: "I don't know anything about the steel business. Why don't you summon Mr. Andrew Carnegie to appear before the committee, and I know he can give you all the information you want."

"I'm dying to see him! I'm dying to see him!" exclaimed Mr. Cockran.

The committee adjourned soon after 6 o'clock. The woollen schedule will be taken up again to-morrow.

GOV. HUGHES ON HEALTH.

Receives Sanitary Officers of State—Many Papers Read.

Albany, Dec. 2.—Governor Hughes received in the executive chamber to-day the delegates to the annual convention of the sanitary officers of the state, which is holding a three days' session in Albany. The visitors were introduced to the Governor by Commissioner Eugene H. Porter, of the State Health Department. The Governor complimented the health officers, whose efforts he likened in the good resulting to the general life of the state to the work of soldiers on the field of battle.

"Questions of public health," said he, "I believe are destined to receive a great deal more attention in the next few years than they have in the past, and the duties of all officials connected with health administration are likely to become more exacting. As much of our prosperity, of which we hear so much, depends on our own effort, so the making of the effort depends on the health. The basis of the great work of the Empire State is the health of the state and the great importance of preventing spread of infection and disease is being more keenly realized.

"Many problems of health, including those connected with the pollution of streams, have been laid before me, and nothing has commanded more anxious or thorough study in order to arrive at proper solutions. I believe a great deal of good work is being done through the state in the work of the health officials, and that they should receive credit as a just reward for the proper performance of duty."

To-day's programme of the eighth annual convention included papers under the general topics of "Vital Statistics and the Registration of Disease," "Problems in Pure Water Supply" and "Problems in a Pure Milk Supply," with discussions. Under the general topic of "Vital Statistics and the Registration of Disease" the following papers were included: "Value of Vital Statistics," by Professor W. F. Wilcox, consulting statistician of the State Department of Health; "Defects in Registration," by F. D. Beagle, director of the division of vital statistics of the State Department of Health; "The Department's Use of Reports of Disease," by Dr. Eugene H. Porter, State Commissioner of Health, and "Medical Inspection of Industrial Plants," by Dr. C. T. Graham-Rogers, of New York, medical inspector of factories, State Department of Labor.

Papers on the pure water supply question were presented at the afternoon session as follows:

"Pollution of Streams by Domestic Sewage and Trade Wastes," by Theodore Horton, chief engineer of the State Department of Health; "Selection and Protection of Water Supplies," by Professor H. F. Ogden, of Cornell University, special assistant engineer, State Department of Health; "Location, Construction and Care of Wells," by L. M. Wachter, chief sanitary chemist, State Department of Health. "Practical Dairy Sanitation" was the topic presented by Professor Herbert Cooke, of St. Lawrence University.

In his paper on "Value of Vital Statistics," Professor Wilcox pointed out that New York State has a higher death rate than Maryland, Colorado, Maine, Connecticut, New Jersey, Vermont, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania or Massachusetts, but lower than Rhode Island.

Professor Ogden in his paper on "The Selection of a Water Supply" declared that river water which had been more or less polluted with sewage was not fit to drink, and the water board that deliberately selected such a supply without at the same time neutralizing the bad effects by installing a filter was practically guilty of manslaughter. Professor Herbert Cooke, in an address on "Practical Dairy Sanitation," urged that every precaution should be thrown around the production of milk.

KEASBEY STRIKE ENDED.

Old Employes Return to Work at Five Cents a Day Increase.

Perth Amboy, N. J., Dec. 2.—The