"POOR SMITH," HE SIGHS

Henry Bruere Says Bureau of Municipal Research Is Misunderstood.

"Poor Smith!" exclaimed Henry Bruere, one of the directors of the Bureau of Municipal Research, yesterday, after he had read the attack made upon the bureau by Park Commissioner Smith at the dinner of the West End Association on Monday night. "I can't understand why he should want to go out of his way to criticise the work we are doing. He seems to misunderstand our efforts.

"An instance of this occurred yesterday, when a woman named Fox, who held a permit for a refreshment stand at Riverside Drive and 122d street, came to me with a letter from the Commissioner revoking the privilege. One of the reasons given to her by Mr. Smith, she said, was that we had objected to the privilege in our report on the revenues of the Park Department. As a matter of fact, we printed a picture of the stand with that of a gallery near by, with the comment that the restaurant was paying $10 a month, while the gallery was paying nothing. The only fair deduction that could be drawn from this was that the gallery ought to pay something, too. Yet Mr. Smith told Mrs. Fox we objected to her stand and told her to come down to see me and try to get some other privilege. I called the Commissioner on the telephone and asked him why he sent the woman to me. He finally said it was because I was interested in many charities, and he thought I might be able to do something for her.

"Now, as to that report of the Park Department, which the Commissioner declares was 'unfair, unjust and untrue,' it was not an attempt to criticise any person in particular, but was a sincere effort to do constructive work. It cost us some $4,000 or more. It outlined for that department the first system of administrative and accounting methods, which we planned to copy in other departments, and which could be used as a model in other cities.

"We did not care for any honor in getting out the report, which was done at the request of Mr. Smith's predecessor. We thought he would be glad to take up the report and put in operation the system it outlined, just as Controller Metz took and published the plan we made for reorganizing the accounting methods in his department. I did say to Mr. Smith that it was a chance to make a name for himself, as being the first to put the system in operation, but if I said we would immortalize him it was in jest and he should have taken it that way.

"This report was submitted to Mr. Smith last May and kept by him for six weeks before he declined to publish it. It, of course, referred to conditions at the time of the investigation. Our statement in it that it was impossible to approximate the cost of maintaining the individual parks, which he characterizes as untrue, was absolutely correct. I have been told that he wagered a dinner with Controller Metz that by the end of last year he would have a system that would give this information. Whether he has now or not I cannot say.

"We believe that Commissioner Smith has made an honest effort to improve conditions, and in our reports we have been careful to praise him for every reform."

TO PRESENT "SALOME."

Philadelphia Authorities Alone Can Stop the Opera.

Philadelphia, Feb. 9.—"Salome" will be presented in Philadelphia on Thursday night unless prevented by the Mayor. At the end of the second act of "Pelléas and Mélisande" to-night Oscar Hammerstein announced from the stage of the Philadelphia Opera House that the performances already scheduled would be given. The Mayor will meet the committee appointed by the Christian League to-morrow, but it is not expected that he will interfere. Mr. Hammerstein said:

"I have advertised 'Salome' for Thursday evening. I must keep my agreement concerning this modern masterpiece.

"I respect the sentiments of the gentlemen of the Church of any denomination. They are foremost in intelligence and culture in any community and especially in this. But what am I to do? I owe my audiences the productions I have promised. I owe the Church the respect that is its due. The clergy have requested me to withdraw 'Salome' and break my promise. This I cannot do.

"I will do this, however, to show reverence and respect to the ministers and rabbis. Any person who has tickets for Thursday's performance and does not choose to come can have his money refunded at the box office. I will produce this opera only for those who choose to see it. After that I cannot conscientiously and without offending those I respect produce the opera again, unless asked by the public to do so."

Mr. Hammerstein said "Salome" would be produced as given in New York.

CARRIERS HONOR MORGAN

Postmaster, Guarded by Detectives, Guest at Deferred Dinner.

The New York Letter Carriers' Association paid a deferred honor last night to their chief, Postmaster Edward M. Morgan, at a dinner given at the Manhattan Casino, in celebration of the first anniversary of the United States Senate's confirmation of his appointment. The celebration was to have occurred in November, but the shooting of Mr. Morgan by an insane young man made necessary a postponement. But last night there were two celebrations besides the one officially set forth. They were in recognition of his restoration to health and the thirty-fifth anniversary of his entrance into the postal service as a carrier.

About fifteen hundred carriers in uniform sat at the long tables facing the main table, at which were W. E. Kelly, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, who presided; Postmaster Morgan, Congressmen Goldfogle and Sulzer, two ex-postmasters, Justice Charles W. Dayton and William R. Willcox, chairman of the Public Service Commission, and John T. ("Beef and") Meehan.

It was observed that Mr. Morgan, on his first public appearance since his unfortunate experience with a maniac, was guarded by several detectives. Detective Lieutenants McConville and Geoghegan were there from Police Headquarters, while the 40th Precinct was represented by four detectives. The Mulberry Street men had places at the speakers' table, the precinct men forming a guard behind the table.

Mr. Kelly, in his introductory remarks, said that Mr. Morgan was justly entitled to all the honors that have come to him, and that the carriers throughout the country had recognized in the New York Postmaster one of the greatest friends they had in the country. The toastmaster's reference to the guest of honor brought forth cheers.

Postmaster Morgan, after expressing his appreciation of the honor, said:

When I entered the service of the New York Postoffice, in 1873, few of those who were then connected with the office had any idea of the vast growth which it was destined to attain. The immensity of that growth may be best illustrated by the following figures: In 1873 the office had 602 clerks and 310 carriers, while in 1908 the total number of clerks was 4,197, and of carriers 2,448. In 1873 there were only nine branch offices, while in 1908 there were thirty-seven branches, some of which contain more employes than many of the postoffices of the larger cities of the Union. In 1873 the total receipts of the office were $2,773,177 74; in 1908 the receipts aggregated $18,808,782 20.

Congressmen Sulzer and Goldfogle, Commissioner Willcox and Justice Dayton also spoke.

BRONX CIVIC LEAGUE WITH HUGHES.

The board of trustees of the Civic League of the Bronx passed a resolution at a recent meeting urging that the legislation for direct primary nominations recommended by Governor Hughes be enacted, and it was decided that a copy of the resolution should be forwarded to the representatives of the Borough of the Bronx in the Senate and Assembly.

PUNCH HIS ASTRAL BODY.

Bingham Not Present in Person for Aldermen to Toy With.

Police Commissioner Bingham, though absent in body, was present in the spirit yesterday at the meeting of the aldermen, and the city fathers punched his astral body until it was limp. General Bingham has a habit of saying things when he feels like it, and he has said a number of things about the aldermen. Yesterday it came out that the Commissioner desired to send a mounted squad to the inaugural parade in Washington. That settled it. The aldermen were "agin" it.

At the request of President McGowan, this resolution was offered:

Resolved, That his honor the Mayor be, and he is hereby, requested to permit the Commissioner of Police to grant three days leave of absence to such members of the mounted traffic squad as can be spared from police duty, to participate in the inaugural parade to be held at Washington on March 4, 1909.

A delegation from the mounted squad had told the aldermanic president that no expense would be entailed on the city for the trip. The time was to be deducted from the vacation allowance of the policemen, and the travelling expenses of men and horses, they said, were to be provided by a committee of public spirited citizens who had subscribed $8,000.

Objection followed the reading of the resolution. It was moved to submit the question to the Police Committee, and when it was put to a vote the Tammany contingent all voted to refer it. It was regarded as improbable that the committee would look with favor on the measure, because Commissioner Bingham had neglected to pay attention to its request for his appearance before it. After the resolution had been referred an opinion was received from Corporation Counsel Pendleton that even if the resolution were passed it could not be carried into effect, because it was unconstitutional to take city property outside of the state.

The board had an opportunity later to tie the hands of the Police Commissioner when the resolution for special revenue bonds for $13,000 was defeated. The money was asked to purchase coal for the new Headquarters building. This may delay the opening of the building.

General Bingham said last night that, in view of the Corporation Counsel's opinion, the proposed trip to Washington had been abandoned.

SIDESTEP DIRECT VOTE.

Park Republican Club Members Decline to Go on Record.

There was a lively debate at the meeting of the Park Republican Club, representing the regular organization in the 35th Assembly District, last night over a resolution stating it to be the sentiment of the meeting that the club "is thoroughly in accord with the Governor in regard to the direct nominations bill and that it will use its influence toward securing its passage."

After much manœuvring the resolution was referred to a newly created committee on political affairs. It was plain that the sentiment of the majority, led by Thomas W. Whittle, secretary of the Republican County Committee and leader of the district, was against committing the organization at this time.

Members of the club said that William D. Cameron, sponsor for the resolution, had intended to introduce it as a surprise, but news of his intentions got out yesterday, and the little meeting room, at No. 414 Tremont avenue, was filled to overflowing last night. Before Mr. Cameron had a chance to offer his resolution J. H. Bernstein offered one for the appointment of a permanent committee on political affairs, to which all resolutions of a political nature should be referred for consideration "without debate."

Appreciating at once that this step had been taken to avoid debate on the Cameron resolution, E. J. Raidiers, one of the Cameron allies, moved that the resolution be placed on the table. It was lost by a vote of 46 to 5. Then Mr. Cameron offered his direct nomination resolution as a substitute, but was ruled out of order, and the ruling of Douglas Mathewson, the chairman, was sustained by the same vote. The original motion was passed by a vote of 39 to 5, and the committee, of which Mr. Whittle and Mr. Mathewson are members, was appointed at once.

Then Mr. Cameron again offered his resolution, and a motion to discharge the newly appointed committee from considering it was offered and lost. Mr. Whittle said he did not wish the club placed in the position of opposing the Governor or any of his bills, but he believed in waiting to see what bills would be introduced in Albany before taking any snap action.

PRIMARIES BILL NEXT WEEK?

Senator Travis and Assemblyman Green Will Be Its Sponsors.

Albany, Feb. 9.—Senator Travis, of Kings, said to-day, after calling on Governor Hughes, that he would probably introduce next week a direct primary nominations bill, as proposed by the legislative committee of the Kings County Republican organization committee, representing the Young Republican Club of Brooklyn. Assemblyman Green, of Kings, will be sponsor for the measure in the lower house. Both Travis and Green have introduced direct primary measures in the last two years.

The joint committee from Kings County is expected here to-morrow to hold a final conference on the proposed bill. It will probably call on Governor Hughes.

CORD MEYER FOR DIRECT PRIMARIES.

Democratic Leader in Favor of Governor Hughes's Proposal.

Cord Meyer, former chairman of the Democratic State Committee, regarded by his friends as a man of large means and a "regular" Democrat, yesterday at the Controller's office said he was in favor of direct primary nominations, an income tax, and that he is of the opinion that Controller Metz would make a strong candidate for Mayor.

"I don't know what the Republicans will be able to do at Albany this winter, but I hope that Hughes will win out on the direct primary issue," said Mr. Meyer. "It is time that the people as a whole had more to say about their candidates. The old system is not satisfactory. Another thing. I am in favor of Champ Clark's income tax proposition. I believe it would work far more equitably than our present system. All of the big foreign governments work it successfully. We are using the old feudal system of land taxation, and it is time we made the change."

"Why wouldn't Metz make a good candidate for Mayor?" asked Mr. Meyer, as he looked over and watched the Controller wrestling with contractors, clerks and stenographers, nearly simultaneously. "It strikes me that Metz, on account of his experience and downright honesty, would be about the best candidate the Democrats could run."

SHOT EDITOR AND KILLED HIMSELF.

Dayton, Ohio, Feb. 9.—Clyde Henley, twenty-five years old, stealthily crept up behind P. Kellum, editor of "The College Corner News," at College Corner, Ind., to-night, and shot and killed him. Henley then ran to his mother's home, followed by a crowd, and barricaded the house.

When citizens began to break down the door, Henley blew out his brains. Kellum was married and had seven children. Henley was also a married man.

OFFER COMMON STOCK FOR BONDS.

The reorganizers of the Wabash-Pittsburg Terminal Railway Company, as has already been announced in The Tribune, are planning to make an assessment on the second mortgage bonds, probably a small one, and they have also proposed to holders of these securities, it is now understood, to give them 20 per cent in new common stock in exchange for their holdings, an offer which the bondholders regard as far from acceptable. There are authorized and outstanding $20,000,000 of the second mortgage bonds, which are a 4 per cent 50-year issue, maturing in 1954. They are income bonds, entitled to interest out of surplus earnings until June, 1910, when they become a fixed charge on the property. No interest has been paid on them since their issue.

WOULD STOP FIVE PLAYS

Theatrical Managers' President Agrees with Archbishop Farley.

"There are five shows in New York I would close if I had my way," said Charles Burnham, president of the Theatrical Managers' Association of New York, after he had finished reading yesterday the sermon preached by Archbishop Farley in St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday. Archbishop Farley referred to certain plays on Broadway as "orgies of obscenity," and said:

We see men and women old enough to know better setting evil examples. We see men hoary with age inspiring with evil the minds of the young. They go to the theatres and to public places in shamelessness, and bring with them youngsters who cannot escape contagion.

"I don't say that we should have a stage censorship," said Mr. Burnham. "No one wants to see a censorship, and it would be a tremendous power to put in the hands of a Police Commissioner of New York—too great a power. These things go in cycles, and just as soon as the managers find out that the public is tired of obscenity and ready for a change we will see a return to decency.

"Archbishop Farley was right. There are shows running on Broadway to-day to which no right-minded man would take his mother or his wife or his sister. All this talk about the theatre teaching sermons or moral lessons is bosh. Its mission is purely one of entertainment, and it isn't the moral sentiments but the 'rank cracks' and 'rough stuff' that get the applause. The man who tries to deceive himself by declaring that one of these filthy spectacles is of moral or educational value is simply a degenerate.

"As for fixing the blame, that is a difficult matter. The actor and the manager produce what they know the public wants; the press declares that a certain show is filthy or lewd, and the public flocks to the theatre and pays any price to get inside the doors. Perhaps they are all partly at fault.

"It is all traceable to the fact that we permit the portrayal of sacred things on the stage. Such plays as 'The Servant in the House' and 'The Passion Play' are not educational, but entertainment, pure and simple. They strip us of our reverence for holy things and turn the temple over to the money changers. No word from the Bible—certainly not from the New Testament—should ever be permitted on the stage."

Mr. Burnham's statements were not generally conceded by his fellow managers. Daniel Frohman, for instance, would not admit that degeneracy had taken hold of the stage. He said the fact that there were a number of unhealthy shows in town was not a reasonable premise upon which to build the argument that the stage was wholly immoral. Marc Klaw, Charles Frohman, Henry B. Harris, Abraham L. Erlanger and other producing managers were of the same opinion. They set forth the fact that the men who have succeeded in the theatrical business were those who had presented decent representations.

While Mr. Burnham did not go into details concerning the immortal five, those who frequent the theatres and know Mr. Burnham intimately did not need to be told that he had in mind "The Girl from Rector's," "The Queen of the Moulin Rouge," "The Easiest Way," "Miss Innocence" and "The Blue Mouse."

The latter comedy is under the management of the Messrs. Shubert. As far as the public is concerned, there seems to be a difference of opinion about its morals. It is exceedingly laughable, and the laughter is provoked by comical situations and, now and again, "salacious" remarks, all of which appear to afford entertainment to the audiences. It is certainly not a comedy for babes.

Mr. Belasco has defended with eloquence his production of "The Easiest Way." As to "Miss Innocence" there is also a difference of opinion. The offering is a musical mixture composed of ballets, buffoonery and panoramic views. The management of the other "shows" openly boast of the wares they have on exhibition.

Marc Klaw said last night:

"It is unfortunate that Archbishop Farley did not point out the plays he had in mind when he composed his sermon. His statement is so broad that it reflects on the entire theatrical world. It is all right for him to decry the fact that certain plays that are being produced are immoral, but for him to speak of the whole stage as being worse to-day than in the days of paganism is unfair.

"For my part, I believe certain managers go too far in the production of immoral plays, and it is to be regretted. It has always been the policy of the firm of which I am a member to put on the stage only plays that are clean and wholesome."

MRS. QUALTROUGH WEEPS.

Wife of Georgia's Captain Shocked by News of Husband's Conviction.

Mrs. Edward F. Qualtrough, wife of Captain Qualtrough, of the United States battleship Georgia, who was recently tried at Gibraltar and suspended for six months, arrived last night from Bremen on the North German Lloyd liner Kronprinzessin Cecilie.

Mrs. Qualtrough learned by wireless that her husband had been placed on trial since her departure from Europe, but she did not hear of the findings of the court until the Kronprinzessin arrived at Quarantine yesterday. When the news was taken to Mrs. Qualtrough she burst into tears.

Among those travelling in the party with Mrs. Qualtrough were Mrs. Orton P. Jackson, wife of the lieutenant commander of the Minnesota Mrs. John J. Hyland, wife of a lieutenant on the Minnesota; Mrs. John H. Merriam, wife of the paymaster on the Kansas; Mrs. Robert W. McNeely, wife of a lieutenant on the Louisiana, and Mrs. Charles T. Wade, wife of a lieutenant on the Ohio.

The naval officers' wives learned on arrival last night that it would be almost impossible to get living accommodations at Old Point Comfort for the return of the fleet. They had hurried their departure to New York to arrange for quarters and were disappointed to learn on arrival that accommodations were not to be had.

Lord Reginald and Lady Beatrice Herbert, who come here on their first visit to New York, were passengers on the Kronprinzessin. After spending a few weeks in this city as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, they will go to Ottawa for a visit with Earl Grey, the Governor General of Canada.

QUEENSBORO BRIDGE COMMITTEE.

The Mayor yesterday appoined the following as a committee to arrange for a celebration in honor of the opening of the new Queensboro Bridge:

T. B. Ackerson, Theodore F. Archer, Frank Bailey, Dr. John H. Barry, George E. Blackwell, Samuel J. Bloomingdale, George C. Boldt, F. G. Bourne, P. J. Brennan, E. M. Burghard, H. A. Casebeer, A. C. Chenoweth, James E. Clonin, William W. Cocks, Patrick J. Conway, J. J. Conway, Clarkson Cowl, Paul D. Cravath, John D. Crimmins, John F. Cronin, John M. Cragan, Fred B. Dalzell, M. J. Degnon, John T. Dooling, P. H. Dugro, Joseph Dykes, Stewart W. Eames, Clarence Edwards, H. P. Englehardt, Alfred J. Eno, Maurice Featherson, Frank B. Flaherty, Joel Fowler, Andrew Ernest Foye, Walter E. Frew, Charles H. Gerlach, Joseph P. Grace, Lawrence Gresser, Herbert F. Gunnison, Arrow C. Hankins, J. J. Halleran, Fred T. Hallett, William J. Hamilton, Jarvis S. Hicks, F. C. Hicks, Stuard Hirschman, Colgate Hoyt, Hagen Hoyt, B. J. Humphrey, Joseph A. Hyman, Henry S. Johnston, Dr. Oliver Jones, Henry L. Joyce, Henry S. Kearney, Luke A. Keenan, Dr. J. J. Kindred, John L. Klages, August V. Lambert, John Anderson Leach, G. Howland Leavitt, W. D. Lewellyn, Milton L. Lesberger, George W. Loft, Seth Low, Robeson L. Low, James A. MacDonald, Edward A. MacDougall, Clarence H. Mackay, John T. McCall, H. Stewart McKnight, George C. Meyer, J. Edward Meyer, W. H. Moffitt, E. D. Morgan, Maximilian Morgenthau, Fred P. Morris, John J. Murphy, DeLancey Nicoll, John F. O'Rourke, Morgan J. O'Brien, A. R. Pardington, John W. Paris, George E. Payne, John H. Penchoen, Charles G. Peters, Ralph E. Peters, John Pierce, W. B. Pollock, George W. Pople, Lewis H. Pounds, John H. Prall, David W. Pye, A. B. Quencer, James H. Quinlan, Otto Rehfeldt, Charles Rickert, E. V. W. Rossiter, Frederick Russell, George J. Ryan, W. J. Salomon, D. S. Sanborn, F. W. Scutt, Edward C. Schaefer, Rudolph J. Schaefer, F. A. Schermerhorn, Mortimer Schiff, William N. Shannon, Henry W. Sharkey, William F. Sheehan, G. Waldo Smith, Gustavus J. Staats, Charles H. Steinway, Silas Strauss, J. R. Thompson, Bernard Timony, Michael F. Tobin, Almuth C. Vandiver, John E. Van Nostrand, William K. Vanderbilt, jr., Athleston Vaughan, Colonel Alfred Wagstaff, John S. Walsh, John H. Weed, Thomas F. Willetts, Alexander S. Williams, William Waldron, W. H. Williams, jr., Louis Windmuller and John L. Wyckoff.

MISS WALSH MUCH IMPROVED.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 9.—The condition of Blanche Walsh, the actress, who is suffering from stomach trouble here, was so much improved today that her physician said she probably would be able to leave the hospital in a week.

"Miss Walsh shows steady improvement," Dr. Ayres said. "No operation will be necessary. While her progress is all that could be hoped, it probably will be many weeks before her strength is completely restored. Her conditions demands a long rest."

The New-York Tribune's Sunday picture supplement on February 14 will be a reproduction of the famous military picture "Friedland," after the original by the French artist Meissonier. Order your Sunday paper in advance of your newsdeader, as there will be a big demand for it.

WANT AERIAL FLEET

Hudson Maxim Tells Enthusiastic Meeting Congress Should Act.

Great enthusiasm was developed at an aeronautic entertainment given before five hundred members of the Automobile Club of America and the Aeronautic Society at the Automobile Club rooms, in West 54th street, last night.

Before the programme was completed William E. Scarritt, a member of the Automobile Club, offered a motion, which was carried by unanimous vote, calling upon each man present to write today to Senator Warren, chairman of the committee having in hand the appropriations for army requirements, urgently requesting that favorable action be taken on a bill appropriating $500,000 for an aerial fleet.

The rooms of the Automobile Club were decorated by large hanging balloons and good sized models of the aeroplanes of the Wright brothers, Farman and Delagrange. The walls were lined with photographs taken from above the clouds, and there were also moving pictures of almost every type of aerial craft leaving the earth, striking the surrounding trees, flying gracefully through the air and finally being pushed into sheds.

Representative Butler Ames, of Massachusetts, surprised the audience by announcing in a modest way that he had built a flying machine last summer to carry two persons, and in which he had been off the ground several times. He is experimenting along new lines, and has not as yet obtained all the patents he has applied for. He said that aeroplanes must be made to balance themselves, and that sustaining surfaces composed of revolving wings would do the work. His talk was illustrated by pictures thrown upon a screen.

Orrel A. Parker, chairman of the entertainment committee of the Automobile Club, introduced Hudson Maxim, Wilbur R. Kimball, secretary of the Aeronautic Society, and M. O. Anthony. Mr. Kimball pointed out that the automobile manufacturers, for some reason, had not given any attention to the making of flying machine motors. It was a field, he said, that offered a vast fortune for the successful pioneer.

Hudson Maxim asked why Congress was so "lacking in public spirit, so deaf and dumb and blind to the general welfare." He continued:

The entire people of this country should be aroused to present needs, which are actual and not mythical. Our vast wealth and resources are not a war potentiality, but an enticement to invasion.

The world is moving fast. We cannot afford to be left behind. The time for recognition, financial support and action is now. We have much more state graft than we have statecraft. Gunpowder can no longer effectually bar the invader. The aeronaut can laugh at forts, coast fortifications and battleships. A bill calling for an appropriation of $500,000 for aeronautical work has just failed to pass Congress. The bill ought to have been for $5,000,000, and should have been passed by a unanimous vote. The American people must be made to realize that in our next war they will not be permitted to sit comfortably at home and read about the conduct of the war in distant parts, for the enemy at any moment may alight from the sky and bring the latest war news right to their doors.

We must have our air fleets numerous enough and strong enough to meet and repel any invasion of our sky; and in time of war around our entire national horizon aerial scouts and aeroplane destroyers, by night and day, must stand ready perched to fly to the attack.

STEPHENSON USED $107,000.

Will File Statement—Storm Prevents His Re-election.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Madison, Wis., Feb. 9.—Senator Isaac Stephenson has prepared a statement showing that his expenditures in the last primary election campaign were $107,793. Of this sum $53,000 was expended outside of Milwaukee County and the remainder in Milwaukee County. The statement, it is said, will be filed at once with the Secretary of State.

Mr. Stephenson's friends expected to re-elect him to the Senate to-day. He had within two votes of an election on the joint ballot. Several Stephenson legislators were hastening to the Capitol and would have arrived in time to cast their ballots for Mr. Stephenson had it not been for the storm. Senator Stephenson received 58 out of a total of 119 votes. There were fourteen absentees.

Both branches of the Legislature adopted the report of the conference committee to-day for an investigation of the Senatorial primary election.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Senator La Follette, of Wisconsin, gave out a statement to-day denying a report that he is using his influence to prevent an investigation of his colleague, Senator Stephenson. He referred to an overt threat that Stephenson proposed to tell how he had spent money in La Follette's behalf in former campaigns, and said that he would be glad to have Mr. Stephenson state fully and specifically the exact amount contributed to each of his campaigns.

SAMPSON'S FATHER DEAD.

Believed to Have Been Important Witness in Murder Trial.

Rochester, Feb. 9.—An important witness in the Sampson murder trial, to be held, perhaps in March, in Lyons, Wayne County, is believed to have been removed by the sudden death of George Sampson, father of Harry Sampson. George Sampson was found dead in bed this morning at his home in Palmyra, and his death was said by the Coroner to be due to Bright's disease.

The deceased man was a brother of Rear Admiral Sampson and the father of Harry Sampson, who, it is alleged, came to his death by foul means. A grand jury at Lyons Monday returned an indictment charging Mrs. Georgia A. Sampson, wife of Harry Sampson, with the murder of her husband, the indictment being murder in the first degree.

The stress attendant on the tragedy in his family is believed to have hastened the death of George Sampson. The indicted woman belongs to the Allyn family, and it is said that George Sampson had held that the story told of the tragedy to him by the Allyns was not the same as that told by the Allyns to the Coroner's jury. George Sampson was one of the witnesses before the grand jury that indicted his daughter-in-law.

CITY NEWS IN BRIEF.

The annual dinner of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Banking will be held to-night at the Hotel Astor. The speakers will be Controller Metz, John Barrett, Creswell McLaughlin, editor of "The Schoolmaster," and the Rev. Dr. J. Herman Randall.

Jacob Cashman, of Cashman & Cashman, makers of gowns and costumes, at No. 28 Waverley Place, who, while under examination in bankruptcy proceedings, admitted that he had gambled away the firm's assets, was released from Ludlow Street Jail under bail pending an appeal in his case. He had been committed by Judge Holt for eight months to the county jail.

Carl H. Schwartz, forty-six years old, of No. 197 West 98th street, claim adjuster for the Metropolitan Street Railway Company, was sentenced in General Sessions yesterday to prison for not less than six years nor more than seven years and ten months, on his plea of forgery. Schwartz was formerly secretary for William C. Whitney.

The 16th District Republican Club will hold its annual entertainment and ball at Terrace Garden next Friday evening. A vaudeville entertainment will precede the dancing. The club is the regular organization of the district of which Charles K. Lexow is leader.

See Washington

THE HEART OF THE NATION.

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A CHANCE FOR REALTY INVESTORS.

Property of the Burgess Estate To Be Sold at Auction.

Many valuable parcels owned by the Annie P. Burgess estate will be sold by order of John W. Vrooman, Daniel M. Burgess and Oscar Bunke, as executors and trustees, at auction on Wednesday, February 17. The sale will take place in the Real Estate Exchange Salesroom, Nos. 14 and 16 Vesey street, and will be conducted by Bryan L. Kennelly.

The parcels to be sold are as follows: No. 874 Third avenue, southwest corner of 53d street; No. 1422 Second avenue, near 74th street; No. 1084 Second avenue, northeast corner of 57th street; No. 58 East 110th street, near Madison avenue; No. 263 West 30th street, near Eighth avenue; No. 828 and 830 Second avenue, between 44th and 45th streets, and Nos. 222 and 224 East 23d street, between Second and Third avenues.

MAGISTRATE FINN'S VACATION.

Magistrate "Battery Dan" Finn announced yesterday that he intended leaving this city for Florida shortly. He said that he expected to take a nine weeks' vacation.

He will begin his vacation to-day, but will not go to Florida until after the annual dinner of the Huron Club of the 1st Assembly District on February 12.

DRAW FOR LAWN TENNIS TOURNEY.

Women to Play for the Indoor Championship on Armory Courts.

Class is well represented among the twenty-one women lawn tennis players who will begin their matches at the 7th Regiment Armory for the indoor national championship to-day. By the fortune of the draw Miss Marie Wagner, present holder of the title, and Miss Elizabeth H. Moore, former champion, are placed in the lower and top halves.

Women's national indoor championship singles; first round—Byes for second round—Miss E. W. Smith vs. Miss G. Radway, Mrs. Foye vs. Miss J. Colton, Miss S. Merritt vs. winner of Mrs. E. C. Bunce-Miss F. Bicknell match.

First round—Mrs. E. C. Bunce vs. Miss F. Bicknell, Miss Alice Fish vs. Miss Clara Kuttroff, Miss E. H. Moore vs. Mrs. George F. Chapman, Mrs. Frederick Schmitz vs. Miss Louise W. Cragin, Miss Fanny Fish vs. Miss E. A. Bagg.

First round: byes for second round—Miss Marie Wagner vs. Miss Erna Hermann, Miss Adele Cragin vs. Miss Louise Hammond, Miss Clare Cassell vs. Miss E. Marcus.

BILLY CARROLL PASSES AWAY.

Billy Carroll was missing in the pressroom at the dog show yesterday for the first time in twenty years, and inquiries led to the news that he died a week ago from an attack of pneumonia. Billy Carroll was well known to all lovers of dogs and horses and had many warm friends.

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