The Sun.

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DISCOVERING MANY ABUSES

REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION OF THE CITY DEPARTMENTS.

The Assembly Committee Find Plenty of Room for Reform—Big Incomes of the County Clerk and Sheriff and Alleged Blackmail in the Office of the Surrogate.

ALBANY, March 14.—The report of the Assembly special committee which has been investigating the New York city departments, held the interest of the Assembly through its Friday session. Mr. Roosevelt made a speech on presenting it, in which he summarized the findings of the committee, and drew attention to the chief abuses. At the conclusion of his speech he tried to get some of the accompanying bills made a special order for an early day, but was beaten by a combination of members who had private schemes on hand, with opponents of the investigation generally.

Mr. Littlejohn worked against the leading of the Young Guard, and got into a heated controversy with Mr. Roosevelt. He said the Supply bill ought to be considered before the reform bills. This led Mr. Roosevelt to say that he was not to blame if some gentlemen had been direliet in their work. Mr. Littlejohn resented the imputation with great warmth, and Mr. Roosevelt tartly replied that he would say what he pleased, and would not be interrupted. The Speaker finally rebuked the gentleman from Oswego, and the latter apologized.

Before the debate was finished Mr. Littlejohn got even with the Speaker. Mr. Roosevelt had asked to have the time of the committee extended to April 15, and Mr. Oliver had got the floor by unanimous consent to debate the question. He had not talked long before O'Neil of Franklin objected to his proceeding. The Speaker thereupon ruled that Mr. Oliver could not proceed, as objection had been made. The veteran Littlejohn was on his feet at once to a point of order. He said that the floor had been awarded to the member from Paradise Park, and it was contrary to all parliamentary rules to cut him off. The Speaker ruled against Mr. Littlejohn, and the latter appealed from the decision of the Chair, but, after conferring with Mr. Husted, withdrew his appeal to save time. It is the unanimous opinion of parliamentarians that the Speaker's ruling is wrong, as he has been on most questions this winter.

The committee was authorized to continue its investigation.

Following are the principal points of the committee's report:

The committee say that the entire Government of the city seems to be in a condition which would not be possible if the majority of the voters were fully alive to the danger of their position, and were actuated by a proper public spirit. The deals by which the Mayor and the President of the Board of Aldermen were elected show, in their opinion, that under the present system the men who really exercise the power in the city are outside persons who cannot be held responsible to the people for their deeds and misdeeds. The committee say of the County Clerk that, although his salary is but $3,500, his net income in 1883, in addition to that salary, was nearly $80,000. Of his whole income $90,059.81 was derived from fees for searches. Under the present system the County Clerk notes in his three years' term of office $250,000, a large part of which is turned over to the political organizations which supported him. Neither County Clerk Keenan nor County Clerk William A. Butler had paid into the city treasury according to law all the moneys received by them from all sources except from searches. They had retained to their own use more than $50,000 to which they had no right or title. In 1883 County Clerk Keenan had retained $13,726.92, and County Clerk Butler had retained during his term $36,620.50. The committee add that neither Mr. Keenan nor his counsel were able to tell under what law or authority those moneys were retained. The committee admit that County Clerk Keenan has complied with the law requiring a monthly return to the Comptroller of fees received, and that his subordinates in his office have discharged their duties efficiently.

The committee found it difficult to arrive at the value of the Register's office, because when Register Reilly was examined he had been in office one month only. They think that the evidence of his predecessor for the month indicates that his office is worth to him from $30,000 to $40,000 a year. They doubt the accuracy of Mr. Reilly's statement of his receipts and expenditures for January, and give as proof of his assertion that he received $10,773.36, and expended $8,140.93. That expenditure for every month would make the annual expenses of the Register's office about $100,000. The committee believe that such an expenditure is greatly in excess of what it should be, and add that if the fees for searches and recording papers were paid into the city treasury the city would receive from this source alone an annual net income of $75,000 or $80,000. The committee judge from Register Reilly's statement that he had forgotten whether he spent more or less than $50,000 to get elected that much of his fees is used for political purposes.

The committee allege that Register Docharty failed to comply with the law, by neglecting to send to the Secretary of State a statement of his fees, and by removing his books before Mr. Reilly went into office. They think that Mr. Docharty should be indicted for this failure to obey the law.

Many of the abuses in the Sheriff's office, the committee say, consist of repeated and flagrant instances of blackmailing. The public is compelled to pay the Sheriff for services which are only indirectly for their benefit, and which it costs him almost nothing to perform. The making of monthly returns to the Secretary of State of all convictions in the city's criminal courts, which could easily be done by one clerk, at a salary of $1,200 or $1,500, was done by the Sheriff last year for $26,299, the Board of Aldermen having fixed the price for that work at 50 cent for each conviction.

The committee believe that $23,109, which the Sheriff received in 1883 for conveying prisoners from the Tombs to the courts and to Blackwell's and Randall's Islands, was an exorbitant charge, and that more than one-half of the $29,039 paid him for feeding prisoners in Ludlow street jail was clear profit. In summing up the committee say that in 1883 $85,119 was paid to the Sheriff for services for which by law he was authorized to receive only a reasonable compensation. They add that in the item of transportation of prisoners last year there was a steal of about $4,500, and that a large part of the money which the Sheriff received for the support of prisoners was obtained without color of right and on fraudulent vouchers.

The committee think that no better example of the natural outgrowth of a system which permits salaried employees to receive fees to their own use can be afforded than that shown by the state of affairs in the Surrogate's office. They office, they say, has been largely run since Surrogate Rollins took office by his subordinates for "purposes of blackmail on those unable to defend themselves." They say that the law does not allow the Surrogate or his subordinates to retain any fees, except the Surrogate's charge for mileage when he is obliged to hold inquiries away from his office, and ten cents a folio for copies of records. But the testimony taken by the committee shows that the subordinates in the office have for years exacted pay for almost every service rendered. "In other words, it is necessary to bribe the employees before they will perform the duties required of them by law."

The committee declare their intention of laying the evidence relating to this office before the District Attorney. They add:

> The committee feel contrained to say that the illegal and extortionate practices prevailing among the subordinates can only be explained upon the ground of gross negligence upon the part of the Surrogate, or else by his actually conniving at what took place among his subordinates.

The committee recommended that the power of fixing the number and salaries of the Surrogate's clerks should be taken from the Board of Aldermen and lodged with the Surrogate, and that the Governor and not the Aldermen should fill the office in case of a vacancy created by the resignation, removal, or death of the Surrogate.

The committee say that bills will be introduced to remove many of the irregularities in all these offices.

One bill provides that after County Clerk Keenan's term expires the County Clerk's salary shall be $15,000, and that all the fees of the office shall be paid into the city treasury. Another provides that the County Clerk shall fix the number and salaries of all his subordinates, subject to the approval of the Board of Apportionment.

The bill relating to the Register's office makes the Register a salaried officer, provides for the payment of his fees into the city treasury, and gives to him and the Board of Apportionment the regulation of the number and salaries of his employees.

The bill relating to the Sheriff takes from the Board of Aldermen and gives to the Board of Apportionment the power of fixing his fees for services. The other bills relating to the Sheriff's office abolish appointment for debt except in certain specified cases, and repeal the act which allows the Sheriff to take prisoners out of the Tombs and put them in Ludlow street jail.

The committee also report that the Park Department is inefficiently managed, and submit a bill providing for the appointment by the Mayor, on Jan. 1, 1885, of a single Park Commissioner.

The proposed laws fixing the salaries of the County Clerk and Register are not to go into operation until after the expiration of the terms of the incumbents of those offices.

The Senate Committee on Cities reported favorably the bill giving the New York Board of Health control of the plumbing in structures hereafter erected.

Mr. Murphy's bill for the repavement of Fifth avenue was ordered to a third reading.

The Finance Committee reported the general appropriation bill, which appropriates $6,907,404. It differs from the bill passed by the Senate principally in cutting down the National Guard item from $300,000 to $200,000.

Mr. Plunkitt introduced a bill providing for the election in November, 1884, and every two years thereafter, of the Comptroller, the Corporation Counsel, and the President of the Tax Commission of New York upon the same general ticket as the Mayor.

In the Assembly Mr. Roosevelt introduced bills providing for the election in New York next November and annually thereafter of an additional Alderman, to to be ex-officio member of all the committees and to be President of the Board. He is to be removable by the Governor. The Aldermen are to choose a Vice-President from their own number.

Mr. Roosevelt also introduced a bill for the election of a Comptroller in New York at the next election and thereafter.

The annual Supply bill was reported in the Assembly. It appropriates $420,000, being considerably less than last year.

HE STOOD THE TOWN ON END.

The Very Lively Time they had with Young Lorenzo Dater in Ramsey's.

The drab painted grocery of George I. Ryerson & Brother in Ramsey's, N. J., stands on the main street of that village. Its door is covered with patent medicine signs, and its small show windows have twenty panes each. In the store on Thursday noon were six customers. Ex-Senator John Y. Dater, father-in-law of the storekeeper, came for his mail; Gen. Frank Price of Hazelwood Farm, in the Ramapo Valley, was buying a dozen sap buckets; H. E. Sherwood, a lumberman, was examining a log chain; William H. De Baum, a carpenter, wanted some nails; John Garrison, a farmer, wanted tapioca; Abbie Jones, a colored girl, was after yeast cakes; and Mel Ryan, a commercial traveller, was trying to sell George Ryerson a bicycle of shoes. Soon Lorenzo Dater, Senator Dater's nephew, aged 25, sauntered in, and, going up to Mr. Ryerson, said:

"I am going to cut your throat."

He grabbed for a long knife that was sticking in a cheese, but Mr. Ryan, who saw his intention, shoved the cheese off the counter. The knife fell out on the floor, and Mr. Ryan hurried to put his foot on it. Mr. Ryerson tried to get away, but Dater caught him and struck him a heavy blow in the face. Mr. Ryerson recovered, and caught Dater around the neck and pounded his face. With help he was able to put Dater out of the store.

In a few minutes Dater kicked his foot through the glass in the door. Then he ran into the middle of the road and threw two large stones through the store windows. One of the missiles hit Abbie Jones on her arm and made her scream with pain. Everybody rushed out of the store to look at Dater. He stood in the middle of the road bareheaded, and with one hand in his pistol pocket.

"Dare to come for me," he said, as they stood on the stoop, "and I will fire."

The people didn't believe he had a pistol, but were afraid to try and capture him. Keeping his hand at his hip pocket, he advanced upon Senator Dater, his uncle. Suddenly he pulled his hand from his pocket, and struck at Senator Dater with a stone which he had been holding. Mr. Dater dodged the blow, but a second blow hit his breast. Gen. Price ran up and got hit on the neck. He tried to grab Dater's hands, but Dater pounded him right and left.

Farmer John Garrison, who was in his wagon, jumped down and stole up behind Dater. He clutched the young man's shoulders and pulled him over on his back. Three men then sat on his legs until Town Marshal William H. Murray came with handcuffs. Senator Dater and George Ryerson preferred charges of felonious assault against young Dater. He was taken before Justice Christie, at Mahwah, and was committed to the Hackensack jail.

Senator Dater is 67 years old. He lives in a big white house with a cupola. He was using liniment when a reporter saw him last night.

"My nephew," he said, "is an evil young man. He has been in the State Reformatory. I think lately he has been subject to fits of insanity. The changes of the moon affect his mind some, but liquor affects it more. I keep in trust for him a farm in the country, and give a farmer the use of it to board him. His barn burned down not long ago, and his assault upon Mr. Ryerson was because he did not got his insurance money. Mr. Ryerson is the agent of the company in which he was insured."

THE LABOLERS HAVE GOT POTATOES.

Mr. Hatch Cheerful About the Yellowstone Snowdrifts, but Depressed About O. T.

Uncle Rufus Hatch of the Yellowstone Park Improvement Company said yesterday that the reports that the employees of the company in the Park were half naked and half starved and that their pay was six months in arrears were somewhat exaggerated.

"The trouble with that man Hendricks," he said, "who tells those stories is that he talks too much. He's got a job for life out there—that is, if he doesn't resign or a cowboy doesn't get too familiar with him—and I guess by this time he has convinced himself that he owns a Territory or two. It's a wonder to me the papers didn't get a few columns from him about those men.

"But those men are not nearly as badly off as he makes out. I don't suppose they are living very high, but they get enough. We ran a train load of potatoes in there for them last fall, and there's enough other stuff on hand or on hoof that they can shoot. Of course they haven't their feet up in rags. Everybody does out there in the winter time. It's the only way to get enough around your legs to keep the snow out. There is some money due them, but they are paid nearer down to date than the employees of a good many railroad companies. They will get their money, and before a great while, too. You may say that as positively as you can.

"On the whole, they are a good deal better off than the stockholders of the Northern Pacific and the Oregon Improvement Company put together. I don't consider that placing a Congregationalist from Boston at the head of a company is any guarantee that the stockholders will get what belongs to them. I am going to run up into New England in a few days to see some of my ancestors, and I may run across the President of the O. T. Company; in fact I don't know but I'll call on him, and if he tackles me on my opinion of him there'll be music, and don't you forget it. He'll hear the angels sing, but he'll never see one. I see there is some talk of putting Elijah Smith in his place. Well, Elijah has let the light in on a good many things that were pretty dark, and he might accomplish something in O. T., but it would be a hard job. He ought to have Bergh associated with him—he can appreciate man's inhumanity to man'—and Comstock, to see that the company's reports are not immorally delusive."

Obituary.

Joseph Allen of the firm of Joseph Allen & Co., flour and commission merchants, died on Thursday at his home, 171 Macdougal street, where he had lived for forty six years. He was in his 81st year. He was a member of the Union League Club and of the Produce Exchange. In 1851 he accompanied Commodore Vanderbilt to Central America, and remained there a year in charge of the Nicaragua Transit Company. He leaves three married daughters. Assistant District Attorney Henry C. Allen is his son. The funeral will be in Middlethun after services at All Souls' Church.

Mrs. Dr. Treadwell, on returning from Brooklyn on Thursday evening to her home in East Willistown, L. I., was taken sick on the train. She died in a short time after her arrival home. Mrs. Treadwell recently received an autograph letter from Queen Victoria about some manuscript.

William Sandberg, proprietor of the Fishermen's Retreat, on the Great Kills, Staten Island, died on Thursday morning, aged 58. He was well known to hundreds of fishermen of this city. He was an assistant foreman in the old Volunteer Fire Department of this city.

William Conselyea died yesterday at 457 Bedford avenue, Brooklyn, in his 80th year. He was Treasurer of Williamsburgh before its annexation to Brooklyn. He was a member of the Legislature in 1840.

Justice of the Peace Thomas Bible of West Chester died on Thursday at Throgg's Neck from injuries received in a fall from a wagon.

The death of Signor Quintino Sella, the Italian statesman, is announced. He was born in Mosso, Piedmont, on July 7, 1827, and was educated at Turin and at the Schools of Mines in Paris. He afterward became Professor of Applied Geometry in the Institute of Technology at Turin, and at the same time filled the Chair of Mathematics in the University of that city. In 1858 he was made a member of the Superior Council of Public Instruction, and in 1860 a member of the Council of Mines and Professor of Mineralogy. He entered political life in 1861, as Secretary of the Minister of Public Instruction. The next year he served as Minister of Finance in the Cabinet of Ratazzi, and he held the same portfolio in the Cabinets of La Marmora and Lanza. Since retiring from the Cabinet Signor Sella had continued to sit in the Chamber, and had been the leader of the Right.

John Taffe, member of Congress for three terms from Nebraska since 1866, died at North Platte yesterday.

The Elephant who Laughed.

A curious story about the mysterious disappearance of the first "lady" elephant; why a lion don't bite the man who puts his head in his mouth; reminiscences of some big shows. See to-morrow's *Sunday Mercury*.—*Adv.*

Charles Reade's

Last story, "Love and Money," is published exclusively in *Bedpath's Weekly*, out this morning.—*Adv.*

NOT A PROMISING LULL.

The Trouble in Dr. Newman's Church Remains to be Wrestled Out.

Parson John P. Newman beamed with serene contentment amid the books and bric-à-brac and leopard skins of his library yesterday. He had read all the morning papers and digested the points of the Advisory Council's thirty-page decision. "Do you think it will settle the church trouble?" he was asked.

"I don't see why there should not be perfect harmony," he said. "As for myself, I have never spoken an unkind word or personally had any difficulty with a member of my flock."

"What do you think of the findings of the Council?"

"Some of the papers say that it is against me. I cannot see that for the life of me. It has decided that I am legal acting pastor so far as I can see."

"But the decision does not say you are legal permanent pastor."

"In that it erred. I have Dr. Quint's word for it that there was a blunder, and that it arose from the Council not having seen my contract with the church society, the only body that could legally employ and pay me."

"Will your adherents join in the meeting that the Council recommends shall be called to reconsider the Harvard Room action?"

"We are in favor of such a meeting, and will accept a proposition from the other side to hold it. I should have been better pleased myself had the Council given its honest opinion about the desirability of my continuing my pastoral relation. The Council, however, must be credited with having attained a result that could scarcely have been looked for—it has produced a decision that has enabled both sides to claim a victory and to feel perfectly happy and contented. Such a result must remain as the phenomenal monument of its work."

"How about Dr. Buckley's threat?"

"I am told that he has since denied that he ever threatened to turn the Methodist Church upon me. But there were a number of persons who heard what he said. He has interfered in this case from the start. He had better mind his own business or he'll get himself into trouble."

Dr. Ranney smoked a fragrant Havana and nursed his lame foot on the office sofa as he talked. Dr. Ranney, who is a member of the Council, "it will be some days before we can make any arrangements for the joint meeting. Dr. Newman says he can't see why there can't be harmony, does he? Well, how in the world can he say that. What's that? He says the Council didn't see the record of his acceptance? Yes, they did, too. They had all the records. They saw the one he lays such stress upon. The Council said that it wasn't a legal acceptance at all, and it isn't. There is a lull in the conflict anyway, as one result of the Council. How long the lull will last can't be said."

Deacon Foster, the velvet waistcoated legal champion of Dr. Newman, sent his promised letter yesterday to the publishers of the *Christian Advocate*, warning them that if Editor Buckley was allowed to express belligerent opinions about Gen. Grant's parson in its columns that liberty would be exercised at the legal peril of the Methodist periodical.

A DOCTOR WHEN SHE WAS 17.

Mrs. Phœbe T. Williamson Appointed on the Staff of a Hospital.

Dr. Phœbe T. Williamson is a daughter of Dr. John S. Thorn, a physician of Dutchess county. For two years before his death the latter was not able to give to his practice the attention it required, and his daughter took it off his hands. He was County Physician, and after his death she was allowed for some time to continue to fill the place. She began to study medicine when 17. She was graduated from the Women's Medical College of New York Infirmary, and she became an assistant physician in the Women's Infirmary, in Second avenue. The year before her graduation she was married to Albert Williamson, a business man in Broadway, Williamsburgh. She has been practising medicine there. Last October she made application for an appointment in the new Eastern District Hospital. She was finally appointed at a meeting on Thursday.

Dr. Williamson is a little woman. On a visit to the new Eastern District Hospital, she discovered that special provision had not been made for the accommodation of women's diseases. She wrote out her views for the Board of Trustees. This was what led to her appointment.

The hospital and dispensary are on South Third street, between Third and Fourth streets. They were only recently built. The President, Dennis Strong, says that at some time of the day there is sunlight on every cot. Only surgical cases are treated. The staff consists of eleven physicians. There are fifty trustees, none of whom is a doctor or a clergyman.

The offer of Mrs. Dr. Williamson was considered in a committee consisting of Trustees George H. Fisher, John H. Kattenstroth, and Zachariah Voorhies. They reported favorably. Some of the trustees said they liked the novelty of a woman physician in the dispensary, but they were not prepared to face the opposition of their staff. President Strong said they need have no fears. He thought that would be no friction if Dr. Williamson was appointed; she could attend to her duties, and the other doctors could attend to theirs. There was no question of principle to be considered. The woman's duties were not large, but they were needful. The dispensary needed her services, and from all he saw of Dr. Williamson, he believed her to be a woman of much judgment. She would not make trouble.

The appointment was made by a vote of 11 in favor, to 7 against.

President Strong said last night he had not heard how the hospital and dispensary staff took the appointment of Dr. Williamson. He did not believe that they would oppose it.

A Bank Teller's Defalcation.

ST. LOUIS, March 14.—Frederick J. Dieterichs, the teller in the Laclede Bank of this city, is a defaulter to the amount of about $30,000. Dieterichs left the city two weeks ago on a leave of absence, and two or three days later the defalcation was discovered, but had been kept quiet until late last night. The Laclede Bank will lose nothing by the defalcation, as the Fidelity and Casualty Company are on Dieterichs's bond for $20,000, and he had given a personal bond for the same amount. The money was taken between Jan. 1 and Feb. 23. What he did with it is not known. Dieterichs is 33 years of age.

Dieterichs was arrested this afternoon. His whereabouts was discovered by a *Post-Dispatch* reporter, who notified the Fidelity and Casualty Company's representative. A search warrant was procured, and the reporter guided the officer to his (Dieterichs's) brother's house, on Franklin avenue, where the embezzler had been concealed for a week past.

Advance in Coal Rates.

PHILADELPHIA, March 14.—The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has advanced the tolls on coal to all points on the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore division ten cents per ton. This was done at the solicitation of the officers of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company, which has been carrying freight at such low rates that there was no profit in the traffic. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company people say that they make the advance of rates on their line to help their your friends of the canal along. Others view it in the light of a fight against the Baltimore and Ohio.

The Pool Tournament.

ROCHESTER, March 14.—The last game in the tournament proper, between Bessinger and Dankleman, was won to-night by Dankleman, 11 to 7. Frey has won seven series of games, and takes first money. Bessinger, Dankleman, King, and Heenan have each won nine, and are trying for second place. Knight and Malone have each won eight series, Gillette has won seven, Leonard and Sutton have won six each, Shaw has won four, Eggleston three, and Wharton two. In playing off the ties King defeated Heenan, 11 to 10.

In Honor of Gen. Porter.

UTICA, March 14.—A Major-General's salute was fired here at noon yesterday in honor of the action of Congress in the vindication of Gen. Fitz John Porter. At the same time the following despatch was forwarded to Gen. Porter: "The members of the Fifth Corps, that served you and which you loved so well, are firing a salute in your honor. They feel that Congress has partially righted the great wrong done their old commander."

Congressman Ellis Exonerated.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, which has been investigating charges against Representative Ellis of Louisiana in connection with Star route frauds, has unanimously agreed that the charges are utterly groundless and unsupported by the evidence.

Bradlaugh Attacked by Roughs.

LONDON, March 15.—Mr. Bradlaugh, while delivering a lecture at Bridgewater last night against perpetual pensions, was attacked by roughs and driven from the platform by showers of rotten eggs, fruit, and fireworks. The roughs afterward attacked and wrecked the Chairman's house.

Cutting Freight Rates.

CHATTANOOGA, March 14.—The cutting of freight rates by the competing lines from New York to Chattanooga continues. The East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia road will to-morrow announce a reduction of nearly sixty per cent. from the regular rates. A further cut by the Merchants' Despatch is expected.

Rising in Cuba.

MADRID, March 14.—The newspapers here mention rumors to the effect that a small insurgent band has risen in Cuba.

VIRGINIA'S MINE DISASTER.

THE MOUNTAIN CRACKED BY THE FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION.

One Hundred and Fifty-four Lives Lost—The Mine on Fire and the Charnel House to be Sealed Up to Smother the Flames.

POCAHONTAS, VA., March 14.—The mines of the Southwest Virginia Improvement Company, in which the dreadful disaster occurred yesterday morning, are still on fire, and the only means of subduing the flames is to close and seal up the mines. This is now being done, and they will remain closed for probably two weeks. None of the bodies of the miners has been recovered. The night superintendent who had the books containing the names of the men is among the killed. Two-thirds of the men were white, and more than fifty had families. They leave about ninety-seven widows and orphans. The actual number killed is 154, of whom fifty were negroes, forty Hungarians, and the remainder Germans and natives. Ten mules were also killed.

The night relief went into the mines at the usual hour on Wednesday night. A little after midnight the town was startled from its sleep by a noise that sounded like the rumbling of an earthquake, followed by a clap of thunder. Soon a messenger came from the mines, three-fourths of a mile away, with information to the superintendent that there had been a terrible explosion there. The superintendent and others hastened to the mines, and the scene presented to their view was indescribable. The entrance to the main shaft was entirely torn out and scattered pell mell for hundreds of feet. The little train track was torn and twisted, and shapeless timber and ties were mixed in confusion all around. The cars were taken up bodily and torn apart, and their iron wheels were shivered. They were thrown across a ravine five hundred yards, and buried in the mountains beyond. The mountain itself was upheaved by the force of the explosion and in several places near the entrance of the mines enormous cracks were made in the earth. In many places on the mountain coal dust has settled an inch thick. In the débris on the mountain side a mule's head and a child's foot were found. Immense trees were uprooted four hundred yards from the mines. Three dwelling houses near the mines were demolished. Pieces of cars and other débris on them. Two colored women and a child were in one of the houses, and were literally torn to pieces. Rocks were thrown through the workshops, and every object that stood in the direct course of the forced air was demolished. Several workmen in the shops were severely injured. The shops, as well as the locomotive house, were levelled with the ground.

Parties who ventured into the mines yesterday morning discovered several mangled bodies, one of which was identified as that of M. L. Rudolph, who, night before last, left a wife and large family. It is generally thought that the explosion was caused by fire damp, but it is inexplicable how a horizontal coal vein above the water level could contain so much gas.

To-day crowds have been flocking to the scene of the disaster. The arrival of every train increased the number. And a constant stream of humanity indicated the direction of the mines from the village. Many of those here from a distance came simply to satisfy their curiosity, while others are interested in the fate of their kinspeople.

The special train which left Central at 8 o'clock last night with the Midlothian relief party and several newspaper correspondents ran into a slide twenty-three miles east of Pocahontas, and the party were belated five hours. The track is still blockaded, making a transfer around the wreck necessary.

The spectacle at the mines this morning baffles all attempts at description. From mountain peak to mountain base could be seen evidences of the frightful havoc that had been wrought by the explosion, the hillsides in every direction being strewn with débris, blackened by coal dust, while the ashy sides of the mines, the entrances to the mines, it was a scene of destruction, of annihilation, and of desolation appalling to the last degree.

The trees on the mountains were shriven, torn, and blasted, and their branches scattered in every direction. In some particles of the wreck were blown clear over the mountain ridge fronting the approaches to the ruins, and picked up more than half a mile distant. Even the coal dust was blown over the mountain, and covers the earth on the opposite side to the depot. Not a house, tree, and shrub blackened and rent overcoat of one of the miners was picked up in a gulch nearly half a mile away. All of the laborers' shanties in the neighborhood were more or less wrecked, and those in the line of the mine approaches were completely demolished. So terrific was the force of the explosion that the windows in a house two miles off were shivered.

The Pocahontas mines embrace an area of twenty-five miles—that is, a person traversing all the chambers and galleries would have covered that distance. There are five entrances, one of which served as an outlet to the pent-up fury within. The entrances are all filled with foul air, which renders the recovery of the dead bodies impossible. Every attempt to enter the mines has been attended with bad results, and in several instances the men have barely escaped dying from the overpowering effects of the gas.

The furthest entry effected was by a Hungarian whose son was buried in the ruins. Nearly crazed by grief, he could not be restrained, and penetrated to a considerable distance, but was eventually forced to retire. He reported seeing a number of bodies congregated in one chamber indiscriminately, torn and mangled beyond recognition. One of the victims was a youth, 13 years of age, who was employed as a door boy, and was the pet of the mining camp. The little fellow had just entered the mines when the explosion occurred.

Col. Geo. Dodds from the Midlothian mines, and other experienced mining engineers, visited the mines this morning and made a careful examination of the surroundings. After consultation it was decided that it was unsafe to attempt to use the fan, and orders were immediately issued to have the mines closed and sealed as the only means of suppressing the fire, which was still burning. The regular coal drifts are not burning. It is the fine coal at the bottom of the mines that is on fire. The entrances to the mines will be tightly sealed, so as to cut off all air and thus smother the fire, while in one of the entrances a tube will be inserted to permit the escape of gas.

PHILADELPHIA, March 14.—A special meeting of the directors of the Southwest Virginia Improvement Company, owners of the mine at Pocahontas, Va., in which the explosion occurred yesterday, was held at the office of the company here to-day. Resolutions were adopted authorizing the superintendent of the mines to take all necessary means to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded and to furnish food and clothing to the families of the dead and injured miners. The Board also considered the advisability of introducing electric lights in the mines, to guard against a repetition of the disaster.

An officer of the company said to-day that there is no connection between the company and the Norfolk and Western Railroad Company, except that the latter acted as carrier for the mines. The company never suspected the presence of fire damp in the mines. There was no odor, and the men were in the habit of going through the mines with naked lamps. No cause can be assigned for the explosion. The following despatch from the superintendent of the mines was received to-day:

> We'll make a desperate attempt to get in to-night. Have a temporary fan up, and indications are that the mine is on fire. Will know in a few hours, and, if found to be the case, will seal all openings at once and fill the mine with steam. Have five boilers placed ready, and steam pipe will be on hand by 11 P. M. No lives saved, Leonard and Sutton have gone in each, Shaw has won four, Eggleston three, and Wharton two. In playing off the ties King defeated Heinan, 11 to 10.

Alarmed Tariff Reformers.

Trying to Get Morrison's Bill Through by Means of a Caucus.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The *Evening Star* to-night prints the following as current talk with regard to the Morrison Tariff bill:

"The friends of the Morrison bill have no doubt of their ability to carry the caucus on the tariff question, and thus place Mr. Randall and his followers in the position of bolting the caucus if they oppose the measure. When the caucus was first proposed the tariff reformers felt confident of their strength, and in their confidence preferred to have the bill pass upon its merits only. But since Mr. Randall has displayed his strength in defeating the consideration of the Whiskey bill they have become fearful, and have determined, having gone thus far, to push the question to the last extremity. This must be done,' said a prominent reformer to-day. 'We must push ahead now, whatever happens—whatever may be the result. It is too late to turn back if we want to, and we do not want to if we could. If the whole party goes to pieces, if we lose the Presidency and everything else, what of that? We are right. Tariff reform is a Democratic principle; three-fourths of the Democrats in the country believe in it, and will stand by their principles.'

"If the bill comes out of the caucus with the endorsement of the party, which it is very apt to do, the reformers being in the majority in the Democratic ranks, if not in the House, the chances of its passage are materially increased. One of Mr. Randall's supporters, a member from New York, speaking on the subject the other day, said that he was opposed to the bill, and that if it was left to pass upon its merits, he would oppose it with all his strength; but if it was endorsed by the caucus and became a party measure, he would feel himself bound to this action.

"This view is supposed to be held by many of the other protectionists, and the friends of Mr. Morrison's bill hope for success by reading the riot act.

"Some Democrats openly declare that they will not go into a caucus on the Morrison bill.

"Inquiry at random from Democrats on both sides of the tariff question shows that no call has yet been issued, but the drift of opinion is that the Morrison men have virtually decided to caucus, and that they seem to be a certainty of getting it approved by a majority.

"There are tariff reformers who openly oppose a caucus on this question as impolitic. One of these Western Democrats said to-day that he would not countenance any movement to shut such men out of consideration, and others, who have fought our Democratic battles for years, out of the party. A Georgia member standing by endorsed this position."

W. G. MORGAN'S DEFALCATION.

The Amount Said to Exceed $40,000—Speculating with his Firm's Money.

HARTFORD, March 14.—As the investigation of the accounts of W. G. Morgan, member of the brokerage firm of Putnam, Earle & Co. and manager of the branch office in this city, progresses, it becomes more evident that the deficit is much larger than at first supposed. It is now estimated that Morgan's defalcation will exceed $40,000. The accounts are found to be very confusing, and it is reported that several fictitious names were used under which Morgan speculated with the firm's money. In other instances the books do not show the names of persons who invested sums running as high as $11,000. Putnam & Earle of 5 Wall street, New York, have sent a circular letter to the patrons of the Hartford branch, asking for a statement of their transactions.

Amenities of the Legal Profession.

Mayor's Marshal McDermott was counsel before Judge Lawrence yesterday for Michael McNamara, whose wife, Mary, sues for absolute divorce. Mr. McDermott moved to set aside the order of reference upon the ground that Samuel S. Thomas, lawyer for the prosecution, had obtained the order in violation of the stay of proceedings previously granted.

"The object of the gentleman," replied Mr. Thomas, "in making this reference set aside is to get a jury trial, and set us up on the calendar of the Superior Court, which everybody knows is eighteen months behind. The stay of his order was left with my clerk. I have no clerk."

"If the gentleman's time is taken up with cases like this," said Mr. McDermott, "it may be another that he has no clerk. I know my client to be an honorable man. Mr. McNamara is not able to employ lawyers, and for that matter neither side is able to employ a first-class lawyer."

Judge Lawrence pounded vigorously with his gavel.

"I deny every word the gentleman says," cried Mr. Thomas, hotly. "I can prove that statements he has made here to-day about my client are false."

"Well," Judge Lawrence said, "this personal quarrel about what your office boy's duties are does not——"

"Office boy!" Mr. Thomas interrupted, "I have no office boy. I draft my own papers.

"The other side says you have an office boy," his Honor continued, and with a like intention under consideration I may have to order a reference to ascertain whether you have or not."

Philip Arnold and his Bride Accused.

Peter Mueller, a saloonkeeper of 1 Jones street, Newark, employed Susan Galloway, 25 years old, tall and pretty, as his housekeeper. She enjoyed his confidence to such an extent as to know where he had his money. On Wednesday Miss Galloway called Mr. Mueller's attention to a loose board in the entrance to the wine cellar and advised him to count the bottles and see if he had been robbed. The bottles were there and were all full. Miss Galloway then wondered if Mr. Mueller's money was in the closet up stairs. Mr. Mueller examined the closet and found that he had been robbed of $167.50.

While investigating the theft the police found that on the day before the money was missed Susan Galloway and Philip Arnold had been married. Arnold was arrested and $60 of the stolen money, the police say, was found on his person. Susan was also arrested, but she protests she is innocent.

Yesterday the police arrested three boys, John Leonard, Frank Darwood, and Frank Jones. Darwood had $13, and Farrell $17, as is alleged, of the stolen money. Neither Arnold nor Susan Galloway will speak of the robbery, but the police think they have evidence that the boys were capable of stealing the money by themselves. Susan Galloway, who were sitting up late on the evening of their marriage, and that the young couple extorted $100 from the young thieves as the price of silence. The five persons were committed for trial.

Getting Out of the Navy.

Capt. Richard W. Meade, Captain of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, has received leave of absence for one year, and will enter the service of the Missouri Pacific Railroad as first assistant to the Vice-President. He will leave to enter on his new duties on April 1.

"I wish to get into active service of some sort," he said last evening, "with a definite purpose in view. Our navy is in such a disgraceful condition, and offers so little future to an active man, that there is no encouragement to remain in it. I have been thinking over the field for several months, and will try my hand at railroad work. If I should succeed, I will not be the first naval or military officer who has done so."

Capt. Meade has received leave of absence for one year. Capt. Kane of the navy yard said last evening, "and I suppose in that time will have had a chance to try his hand at a railroad management. He has had a great deal of sea service, with very little recreation, and for that reason, I presume, the department granted his request for a leave. He returned but recently from a three years' cruise in the Vandalia."

Was It Abandoned Alive or Dead?

Nothing was learned yesterday about the identity of the child whose head was found in the alleyway of 421 West Thirty-seventh street on Thursday morning. Mr. Jeremiah Holmes, the agent of 421, in which he lives, said last night that on Wednesday night his wife saw a strange woman in the alleyway, which leads to a rear building, and inquired if she had any business there. The woman replied in the negative. Early Thursday morning he noticed that the ash barrel was upset and that the bottom had been broken out. He got another barrel from the cellar, and had begun to fill it with the ashes when he found the head. It was that of a child three months old. There are indications that the child was alive when it was abandoned.

Trying the Dempsey-Dacey Referee.

Justice Stryker of Gravesend, Coney Island, had before him yesterday James Giddons, who is charged with having acted as referee in the Dempsey-Dacey prize fight, on March 6. The witnesses for the prosecution, Garrett Butler, John G. Fredericks, Thomas J. Doyle, and Abraham Vanderveer, testified that they witnessed the fight in the dining room of the Sampell House, on the Coney Island Boulevard, and that nine rounds were fought with hard gloves. They also testified that James Giddons was the referee. The principals have not yet been found. The defence is that it was not a prize fight, but a contest with soft gloves. The examination will be resumed to-day.

St. Patrick's Day.

At the meeting of the Irish societies last night at Central Hall, in East Forty-seventh street, a communication from the Sixty-ninth Regiment was received, in which that organization offered to parade in the procession on St. Patrick's Day. The offer was accepted, and the regiment was assigned to the right of the line. The soldiers will attend mass in a body at the cathedral in the morning, and take their place in line at tenth street after the services. The procession will start from Fourteenth street at 1 o'clock. The Aldermen have accepted the invitation to review it.

Dress for an Arctic Summer.

"No Arctic expedition," said Commander Schly yesterday, after looking over the improvements to the steamer Bear of the Greely relief expedition, "was ever so thoroughly equipped as this will be, nor did one ever have a more seaworthy vessel. Part of the clothing for the expedition is being made at the navy yard here, but the fur will be brought from Sweden, for only the skin of the reindeer is fit for the purpose. Real alaska more dampness and is heavier and less durable."

Tammany to Discuss the Tariff.

The Tammany General Committee will meet on Friday evening to discuss the tariff question.

A MOB AFTER PATTI TICKETS.

Doors Burst In, Box Office Windows Smashed, and Coats and Dresses Torn Off.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 14.—The sale of tickets to-day for Patti's second appearance on Tuesday next resulted in a rush greater than that of Wednesday. The crowd, over 1,500 strong, burst in the doors of the Grand Opera House and smashed all the plants and pictures in their way. The