A MIGHTY LIVELY SESSION.

THE BLUE-EYED BOY OF BUFFALO SPEAKS UP FOR GOVERNOR HILL.

Contractor Duncan D. McBean, Without Counsel, Tells the Committee and Its Great Array of Lawyers Some Startling Things—Was $150,000 Wanted for Three Aqueduct Commissioners?—Sharp Talk.

Assistant Engineer Fassett and the G. O. P. donkey engine had a great time yesterday, and the proceedings were very much of a "go-as-you-please" character. Senator Fassett's arrival disclosed Senator Cantor and Counsellor Boardman in conversation. He said to Cantor: "That's right; you take care of Boardman and Sheehan will assist Nicoll, and we shall get on."

"Yes," rejoined Senator Cantor, "if you had me here all the time you would get on faster."

When the Chairman's gavel had marked the formal opening of the session Assemblyman William F. Sheehan, rising in the audience, said: "The Chairman yesterday made the announcement that the opportunity would be given to any one to testify who thought he could add to or explain anything that has been touched upon. As there has been some mention of my alleged connection with the passage of aqueduct legislation, I desire to have my testimony on the subject taken."

Chairman Fassett—Oh! Well, there is time enough. You will be in the city some time.

Mr. Nicoll—Mr. Boardman and I have made an arrangement so that this can come in now.

Chairman Fassett—All right, then.

Mr. Sheehan was then sworn, and described himself as a Buffalo lawyer and a member of the Assembly.

Mr. Nicoll—Were you a member in 1886, when the Aqueduct reorganization act was passed? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—You have heard it stated that you were a party to a deal to insure the passage of the act, one consideration of which was the appointment of your brother as Secretary of the Aqueduct Commission? A.—Yes; that is, I have seen it stated in certain of the newspapers, and yesterday I heard it indirectly asserted on the stand here.

Q.—What have you to say about it? A.—In the first place no person ever spoke to me about voting for the Aqueduct bill that I remember. Certainly no one did, unless it was one of my colleagues. When the bill came back from the Senate, Assemblyman John I. Platt, a Republican, moved at once to strike out the Mayor and Comptroller in the clause constituting the Commission. I don't know whether there was a roll call on this question, or how I voted on it, or whether I voted at all. But on its final passage I voted for the bill thus changed, because the majority of the city members voted for it, and the measure affected the city. The vote in the Senate, too, was nearly unanimous. My friend, the Chairman of this committee, voted for it. That is all of a deal I know anything about. I did not know until long after the passage of the act that there was any such position as Secretary of the Aqueduct Commission. My brother did not know it either. I never talked to Gov. Hill about the bill. I never talked to Judge Muller about it. I never talked to Mr. John O'Brien about it.

It was in June, 1886, that my brother and myself first knew anything about the place. It happened in this way. The Court of Claims, of which Judge Muller is a member, had a session in Buffalo to hear claims arising in that vicinity. My brother, the private secretary of the Aqueduct Commission, J. C. Sheehan, had a case as attorney before the court. I may here say that he was subsequently defeated in it. In one of the recesses I introduced my brother to Judge Muller, and he paid him a compliment on the way he had prepared the case, as to clearness and making the best of his points. The conversation became general, and my brother spoke of his health, saying that he was having a great deal of trouble with his throat, and that his doctor had recommended him to leave Buffalo. He asked Judge Muller to let him know if he heard of any place in New York that he could fill acceptably. The Judge said that he had heard of a place in the Aqueduct Commission, as there was talk of changes being made. He didn't know what it was, but said if my brother and I would go to New York he would introduce us to some of the Commissioners and we could find out about it.

On the evening of July 4 my brother and I went to New York. We were introduced to Commissioner Ridgway. The Commissioner said that there was a disposition to remove the Secretary, as he was discourteous, and for other reasons. There was nothing whatever said about his connection or relations with the contractors. I never heard it stated that the contractors were against McCulloh.

Subsequently during the same visit to New York I met Commissioner Squire, with whom I had a slight previous acquaintance. I asked him if he had any objection to voting for my brother's appointment as Secretary if a change was to be made. Mr. Squire said that he knew that Mr. Hill's removal of Secretary McCulloh was contemplated on account of discourteous manners and other matters, but he would see McCulloh first and see if he could not be made civil. Nothing was said about contractors' opposition to him then either.

The whole matter of the removal was then left in the hands of Commissioner Ridgway. I went home and never saw any of the Commissioners after that until the removal and appointment had been made.

That is all I know about it. It is absolutely untrue that Gov. Hill requested the appointment of J. C. Sheehan or made any request of Mr. Squire in the matter to my knowledge or that of my brother. I stopped in Albany on my way home and saw the appointment when it was made, and called at the Executive Mansion to pay my respects to the Governor. He said to me: "I see your brother has been appointed Secretary of the Aqueduct Commission. How was that brought about?" I told how it started and who voted for it, &c.

Mr. Nicoll—Is your brother a lawyer? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What other positions has he held? A.—He has been Assessor of Buffalo and Comptroller.

Mr. Fassett—I think there is no occasion to cross-examine on that statement.

Gen. Tracy was not so easily satisfied. After Senator McNaughton had again drawn from the witness the assertion: "No statement was ever made of any objection of the contractors to Secretary McCulloh, and in fairness to Gov. Hill I must say I don't believe he ever knew anything about the Secretaryship, the General asked:

Q.—Where was the interview with Squire held? A.—At the Clarendon Hotel.

Q.—Was Squire sent for? A.—I presume he was.

Q.—Who sent for him, Judge Muller? A.—I don't know. It may have been Commissioner Ridgway.

Q.—Do you know whether Gov. Hill and Judge Muller had any conference on the matter? A.—I don't know of my own knowledge, but I answered that from what I know of Gov. Hill.

Q.—Gov. Hill's name was not mentioned in the matter? A.—No, sir.

Q.—If Judge Muller had any instructions from Gov. Hill you would not know anything about it? A.—No, but I don't believe he had any.

Gen. Tracy—I don't want your opinion. Buffalo is a notoriously bad place for throats, isn't it? A.—I don't know. I never heard that it was.

By Mr. Nicoll—You were the Democratic leader in Albany that year? A.—Yes, sir; that was the first year that I was so called.

Chairman Fassett—And you got the complimentary vote for Speaker, didn't you? A.—Yes, sir.

Gen. Tracy—Who spoke first about the position, Judge Muller or your brother? A.—My brother, I think. Judge Muller did not know him before that. He did not even know I had a brother.

Q.—Judge Muller had no official relation to the Board in dispensing patronage, did he? A.—No, sir.

Q.—What led your brother to suppose that he could influence appointments? A.—He simply thought that the Judge was in New York so much, he might hear of some place.

Q.—But Muller was understood to be an intimate friend of Gov. Hill, wasn't he? A.—I don't know.

Q.—He used to be the managing clerk of the Governor's law firm, didn't he? A.—No, I think not.

Q.—Was he a partner, or in the same office? A.—I have heard that they had offices together.

Q.—When was Judge Muller in the habit of stopping in Albany? A.—I have seen him at the hotels.

Q.—Didn't he stop at the Executive Mansion? A.—I've seen him there.

Q.—He had a room there, didn't he? A.—I don't know that he had.

Q.—But he was understood to have intimate and influential relations with the Governor? A.—Intimate relations, yes; but no one has influential relations with him. He acts for himself.

Q.—But his relations were as influential as anybody's? A.—An answer to that would imply that there were persons influentially intimate with the Governor. There were no ones who had an influence with the Governor or judicial to the public interests.

Gen. Tracy—Oh, no.

Mr. Sheehan—I suppose, of course, he would take the advice of his friends rather than that of his enemies.

Q.—I understood you to say that you did not talk with anybody on the subject of the aqueduct legislation except your colleagues in the Legislature? A.—Yes, sir, that is true, during the pendency of the bill.

Q.—Did you know Judge Muller then? A.—Not very well. I did not know him at all in '85, but I met him a few times in 1886.

Q.—Did you know that he advocated the bill? A.—He did not speak to me. I did not know that he was in favor of or advocated the bill. I could not know if not told, and nobody told me.

Q.—Did you see him about the Legislature? A.—I cannot tell. If I did, it made no impression on my mind.

Q.—Being from the rural districts, you could not, perhaps, have a clear appreciation of the merits of a municipal measure? [Laughter.] A.—I generally followed the course of the majority of the New York members.

Charles S. Gowen, a division engineer, who raised a laugh by saying he lived in Sing Sing "outside the prison," was the next witness. He testified at great length in regard to the defective work on Brown, Howard & Co.'s contract in section 2 and 3 of the first division, already pretty fully in the testimony. After he had several times alluded to his troubles over the disposition of the contractors to ignore the supervision of the division engineers, D. D. McBean of the firm rose to put a few questions to him.

Mr. McBean—Did my conduct lead you to the belief that I bribed or was ready to bribe any of the inspectors? A.—No.

Q.—Don't you think I did my whole duty as a contractor? A.—(After much hesitation) No.

Q.—Will you explain what I did or did not do to give you this opinion. A.—We found the bad work, and I believe the reason was that you were too ready to believe your men and not the inspectors.

Mr. McBean (hotly)—It is your fault that the bad work got in, and we are paying for it.

The witness also referred to a conversation had at White Plains with Clinton Beckwith, another member of the firm, but said he did not know whether to consider it a threat or not. Mr. Beckwith had expressed the opinion that the witness was too strict, and had warned him that Brown, Howard & Co., were hard people to fight, and if they could not get along with him, might get along without him.

At the close of his evidence Mr. McBean expressed a desire to go on the stand and answer some of the questions over again that had been put to the engineer. In so doing Mr. McBean prepared one of the most amusing and sensational incidents of the whole investigation. As he took his seat he remarked that he had no lawyer to ask him questions and Chairman Fassett suggested that he ought to get one. Mr. Nicoll interjected blandly that there were quite a number of them out of employment. Then to the witness: "You consider that you have been abused by the nature of the testimony taken by the committee?

A.—Yes, they are using our money to belt each other over the head. [Laughter.]

Q. (with uplifted eyebrows)—Your money? A.—Yes, they are holding it back while they pound each other. I can't see any other purpose in this thing.

Chairman Fassett—Has this committee got any of your money?

Mr. Nicoll—I haven't seen any of it.

Chairman Fassett—That is what I was thinking of.

Mr. McBean—Well, you are making a case against us for the city.

Mr. Nicoll—How is that? A.—Well, it appears so. I don't see anything else in it.

Q.—Then you approve of it as a citizen, but disapprove as a contractor? A.—It is a case of one against many.

Q.—Where do you live? A.—In Tarrytown.

Q.—Then you are not much interested in the debt of the city. A.—I don't know as I am.

Mr. Nicoll then led the witness over the history of his work as a contractor, particularly as to some cascade and lock work, in which he was a partner with Thomas C. Platt and worked out the Government appropriation and sold out the plant to the Government.

Q.—You and Platt had a claim against the Government for an extra allowance, didn't you? A.—Yes, for extras.

Q.—It was disallowed, wasn't it? A.—(Rubbing his hands)—Yes, by Gen. Newton. We are getting on now.

Mr. Nicoll—What! Gen. Newton, whom you have had the bad fortune to run against here in New York? Well, you are having a hard time.

Mr. McBean could not answer definitely as to when he began to take an interest in the aqueduct enterprise, but ex-Commissioner Ridgway suggested in a stage whisper that it was when John Platt called his attention to it. After getting a description of the relative composition of the firm of Brown, Howard & Co., Mr. Nicoll asked if there were not others interested in it.

A.—I have heard endless rumors about that.

Q.—Please tell us, but don't make it endless in telling. A.—There were newspaper statements that Calvin S. Brice had an interest, for instance. They arose from the fact that Gen. Thomas bought the interest of George Chambers.

Q.—But you took charge of the work. Your partners confided it to you, didn't they? A.—Yes.

Q.—Haven't your partners said that you were responsible for $350,000 worth of bad work? A.—I don't say there is any bad work, but there has been testimony to that effect.

Q.—Wasn't it all bad work under your management? A.—What I am hedging on is to see what you are driving at.

Q.—You are not hedging with me. There must be bad work. A.—They call it so now, but they passed it a year ago.

Q.—But your firm under date of April 10 admits this by offering to make it all good? A.—Yes.

Q.—You are the active partner in the firm of Brown, Howard & Co. Are you not? A.—I am supposed to be.

Q.—They sit in their elegant offices in Wall street and you are up on the line taking the brunt of everything? A.—Those are strong words that I should use.

Mr. Nicoll—Oh, no, elegant is not too strong, I think. Haven't your partners found fault with the way you superintended the work? A.—At two stages of it, but on the rest quite the contrary.

Q.—Have you any excuse to offer for the bad work? A.—None is necessary. There is no such quantity of bad work as has been represented.

Q.—How do you account for it? A.—I have done as well as could be expected. Under the contract they were to look after the quality of the work. They accepted it and gave estimates on it. The contract provides that the work is to be done to the satisfaction of the engineers.

Q.—Then if you could cheat the engineers you thought it would be all right? A.—I never wanted to cheat anybody. The contention all along was that we must do as the engineers said. They told us, "We are Responsible, not you." I held that the engineers' orders should come to me so that I could see that they were attended to. They wanted to give orders direct to my men.

Mr. Nicoll then turned his attention to the water meter company, whose basis was some patents of Chief Engineer Church's. He wanted to know if Mr. McBean's investment in it was not intended to influence Mr. Church's attitude toward the contractors, and whether he had not tried to get Brown, Howard & Co. to charge the amount up as expenses of aqueduct work. Mr. Tracy thought that the witness ought to have the benefit of counsel in such an inquiry. Mr. Nicoll was surprised at this, and doubted that this tender solicitude was not shared by Mr. McBean. It was not, and the witness answered on all questions relating to the water meter stock. He said he went into it on the representation of C. H. Roosevelt that it was a good scheme, and he still thought there was money in it. "Unless," he added, "you blackball it here. You are evidently doing that for Brown, Howard & Co."

By Mr. Nicoll—What do you mean? A.—This is all a political question, but you haven't got it right. Brown, Howard & Co.'s people voted the Democratic ticket last fall and you are pounding me as a Republican. O'Brien's force voted Republican last fall.

Mr. Nicoll—What you, a dyed-in-the-wool Republican, a former partner of Tom Platt, voted the Democratic ticket? A.—I don't say I did personally, but you must not call me a Republican.

Mr. Nicoll—What then, a Mugwump?

Chairman Fassett (sternly)—Come, come, let's get back.

Mr. Nicoll—But I want to know—

Chairman Fassett—It is the right of Democrats or Republicans, but we draw the line at Mugwumps.

Mr. Nicoll—But, Mr. McBean, many of your men are naturally Democrats, are they not? A.—Well, I don't know; many of them are darkies, may be they voted the Republican ticket in the morning and the Democratic in the afternoon.

Returning to the meter question, Mr. McBean testified that he had been assured that Engineer Church had nothing to do with the company when he bought the stock. He considered that the chief engineer's testimony in the matter was intended to hit him.

Q.—Well, have you any explanation to make of the testimony or any part of it? A.—I cannot, single handed, undo the wrong.

Chairman Fassett—Do you mean perjury? A.—No, but I consider it unfair and unjust to permit the Corporation Counsel to come here to make up a case against the contractors. I think the members of this committee to see that the work was done properly. They have got more inspectors than we have masons. I hope it will not be necessary to have a lawsuit, though the Corporation Counsel is here every day trying to make a case against us. The work cost us just as much as it would have cost if done to suit us. It simply made any money out of it except in the way of the loafing on our time. The work was not done right along in lengths. The sub-invert and the side walls, built separately, stood so as to be fully seen. The inspectors had a right to come up and examine any part of it. There is no reason in the world why they should have passed any work that did not suit. You are making a big mountain out of a molehill. Every crack in Westchester county.

Mr. Beekman—But I understand that the defective work and unfilled spaces are mostly over the crown of the arch. A. (meekly)—That is wrong and ought to be made right.

When the inquiry began to touch upon the extra excavation point, it became so evident that Mr. McBean was testifying without any regard to what use might be made of his words in subsequent suits between the city and the contractors, that Gen. Tracy and Chairman Fassett joined in an effort to show him that he ought to have legal advice.

Mr. Nicoll—Perhaps, Mr. McBean, you think this is an attempt to cut you off from your rights? A.—No. I don't regard my case as identical with that of the other contractors. They are welcome to their lawyers. I want to avoid a lawsuit. That is what they are after [pointing to Beekman, Boardman, and Tracy.

Mr. Nicoll—I think you ought to have a lawyer.

Mr. McBean—That's business. I don't know what politics there is in it, but there's some, I am sure. There's politics in everything here.

Chairman Fassett—You must consider that there is no wish to prejudice Brown, Howard & Co.

Mr. McBean—It is pretty late in the day to consider that.

Chairman Fassett (with asperity)—Well, I don't consider that this committee is under any obligation to stand between you and any damage you may do your firm. We will give you a chance, however, to consult your partners.

Mr. McBean did not want any chance except one to talk, and he went on to say that the chief engineer had influenced the line of excavation in the timber sections took $54 per lineal foot from the contractors, and when the same rule on other sections operated against the city there was a howl, and the newspapers were full of it. Then the chief engineer went on the stand, and instead of giving his views and taking the responsibility the contract put upon him, he was governed by the views of the Corporation Counsel. "He was not a free witness," declared Mr. McBean; "his position depended on his answers."

Mr. McBean ran on quietly for some time, and then raised a breeze by saying: "I fought my way through here. I did not buy it. Everybody tells me I made a mistake."

A stir went through the room, and Mr. Nicoll sprang to his feet, asking: "Who told you so? Give me the names. Give me at least one."

Mr. McBean looked disturbed, and as though he wished he hadn't said what he did. Finally he answered that he had been told that he had not policy enough, and he supposed that it was meant that he didn't spend enough money.

Though questioned closely, Mr. McBean could not be got any closer than this to the original proposition. Ex-Commissioner Ridgway asked leave to insist on an answer, and Mr. Nicoll said he really wanted to know. Chairman Fassett finally became impatient, and demanded to know what Mr. McBean meant.

"Just what I said," he replied. "I did not try to buy my way through. Whether I could do so or not is another question."

After a lot more pulling and hauling, Mr. Nicoll said: "There doesn't seem to be much left of your statement."

"There's a good deal left in it," Mr. McBean retorted. "In January, 1888, just before the bad work question came up, a man came to me and said that if $150,000 was paid to three of the Commissioners it would settle the whole thing."

Mr. McBean had been regarded with much interest all along, but his listeners were now climbing over chairs to hear his lightest word. His answer to Mr. Nicoll's next question, "Who was the man?" intensified the interest. The answer was: "Ben Lefevre." Everybody else recognized him as ex-Congressman Lefevre of Ohio, but Mr. McBean evidently did not know just who he was. He went on to tell of him as a lawyer who was employed by Gen. Thomas, despite excited shouts from Boardman and company of "Brice!" "Brice!" Mr. McBean did not second these good Republican efforts to connect the name of the Chairman of the Democratic National Campaign Committee with what seemed to be a very unsavory affair. Apparently he did not understand them. He mentioned incidentally that Gen. Thomas was a Republican, and went on, in answer to questions, to tell where Mr. Lefevre had told him the $150,000 story. It proved that he had derived it from David Page, a sub-contractor under O'Brien & Clark on the lower end of the aqueduct line, who in giving Mr. Lefevre the startling $150,000 tip had neglected to tell him the authority he had for the statement. Mr. McBean finally got down to an expression of opinion that he did not think there was anything in it, and did not believe the story at all, a conclusion that his hearers had already reached. He said he did not even take the trouble to talk to Page about it.

Then he introduced another startler, saying that in the latter part of March or early in April, Mr. Brown of the firm had told him that three of the Aqueduct Commissioners had called at his office, at 20 Nassau street, and said that if McBean and Beckwith were got rid of, and taken off the work, the defective work could be repaired at little or no cost to the firm, but if they were retained, it would cost all of the retained percentages, and perhaps more, too. As the retained moneys amount to about $700,000, this was a very interesting proposition.

Mr. Nicoll tried to get the names of the three Commissioners, but the witness did not know, and said that the question would have to be asked of Mr. Brown.

Mr. Nicoll—But this seems to be a very different proposition from the $150,000 one. What could be the reason for wanting to get you and Beckwith off the work? A.—I don't know; maybe they thought that we stood in the way of their getting the money.

Q.—Did Mr. Lefevre propose that the money should be paid through him? A.—Oh, no; he only repeated what Page had told him.

Q.—Did he say the Commissioners would pass over the bad work for money? A.—No.

Q.—Did you hear of this $150,000 anywhere else? A.—Mr. Brown told me that Mr. Lefevre had told him the same thing.

Q.—Did he tell you the names? A.—No.

Q.—Did you ever know what three Commissioners they were, or whether they were the same in both cases? A.—I don't know but I have a surmise.

Mr. Nicoll—We don't wish you to give any surmises.

Ex-Commissioners Fish and Ridgway (from audience)—We call for the surmise.

Chairman Fassett—This is very sensational, but I don't think it would be proper to have any names mentioned unless the witness knows the fact.

Mr. Ridgway—Then I ask to have Mr. Brown, Mr. Lefevre, and Mr. Page subpœnaed here.

Chairman Fassett—That will be done, of course.

Mr. Fish—Am I one of the Commissioners your surmise included?

Mr. McBean—I will say that I did not believe the story at all. The most I thought of it was that may be some smart Aleck was trying to get $150,000 out of us.

Mr. Fish—I have been sworn here, and I wish to testify that I was never in Mr. Brown's office.

Mr. McBean—I know you were not, or Mr. Ridgway either.

Mr. Ridgway—I wish to say that I was never in Mr. Brown's office since I was appointed an Aqueduct Commissioner.

Clinton Beckwith, another member of the firm of Brown, Howard & Co., testified that he was present when Mr. Brown told Mr. McBean what the three Commissioners had said about getting them both off the work. He said that the inspectors could bother the contractors in a hundred ways and make their work expensive. They could make them go over the work a hundred times. He knew that one inspector or engineer named Miller had said that they would cut hell out of Brown, Howard & Co., and that instructions to that effect were on record in reference to bad work discovered last fall.

Chairman Fassett, in repeating a question on this subject, hesitated at the quoted words. Mr. Nicoll spoke up, saying, "I will help out our Presbyterian Chairman," and rattled off the strong expression very glibly.

Mr. Beckwith gave the same testimony that Mr. McBean had given about the water meters and other subjects, and the committee, discovering that it was nearly 6 o'clock, adjourned. They usually close at 4½, but Mr. McBean made them forget to do so.

STEPHEN R. POST'S COLLAPSE.

He is Out Only $275,000, and he Will Pay Dollar for Dollar.

It turns out that the phenomenal wheat plunger of the Produce Exchange, Stephen R. Post, is out $275,000, instead of $750,000, but that this last loss makes a total of $800,000 for five years. It was also demonstrated at yesterday's session of the wheat men on 'Change that they will receive dollar for dollar from Mr. Post, and that Mr. Post will turn up as bright and chipper this morning as if nothing had happened and start in to try it over again.

In the interests of the grain trade, T. A. McIntyre and H. T. Kneeland, big grain brokers themselves, spent most of Tuesday night in Mr. Post's office in the Produce Exchange building, trying to find out exactly how Mr. Post stood, and to ascertain the best steps to be taken for the most favorable settlement. It was then developed that $30,000 of margins were called from Mr. Post on Tuesday, and that this precipitated the announcement of his suspension. These brokers were notified to shift for themselves by buring in Mr. Post's contracts in the open market. This effectually protected them against loss. Messrs. McIntyre and Ward will further ascertain that Mr. Post was short 1,050,000 bushels of December wheat, not from 3,000,000 to 5,000,000 bushels, as stated. He was also long of 800,000 bushels of corn, but these transactions were not a material factor in the ruin of Post.

When Change opened yesterday morning the galleries were jammed with interested folks waiting to hear the news about Mr. Post's settlements. All the grain men were taken into the call room and the case was stated to Mr. Post's brokers who hadn't called for margins the day before. They were still unrotattled and the prospects of a blazing market were before them. Mr. McIntyre suggested that they should individually buy in Mr. Post's contracts and that Mr. Post would settle the difference with them. This was done to prevent a mad scramble to cover. The suggestion was accepted, and there was no strain upon the market. The opening price was 99⅝ cents, highest 99⅝ cents, and closing 98¼ cents. Mr. McIntyre's suggestion to the brokers was backed up by the announcement from Mr. Post himself to the effect that if that course was pursued he could pay dollar for dollar, but if the boys jammed the market up on him it would be to their own loss. It was a neat and equitable way of settling the predicament of the brokers, but Mr. Post is out his $275,000 just the same. Now the question is, will he pay this immediately, and furthermore that he will be on deck to-day.

CHICAGO, Aug. 22.—The failure of Stephen R. Post, the New York speculator, made a rather nervous feeling at the opening of 'Change. It was known that Post was a heavy "straddler" between here and New York markets, and it was feared that he might have caught some of the firms here. It was believed, however, that he had gone long here against his shortage in New York, and that his trades were distributed among so many firms that, even were they losers, the losses would not be felt.

RAILROAD NEWS.

The Castle Garden Committee of the Commissioners of Emigration were in consultation over three hours yesterday with passenger agents of the different trunk lines. The purpose was to try and settle the trouble over the transfer of baggage from the barges to the baggage rooms. Heretofore a great deal of baggage belonging to immigrants who stayed in the city has been transported without cost to them, and each of the trunk lines has paid its percentage of the expense. But since the Lackawanna and Ontario roads have refused to pay any longer, and have been handling their own baggage, the Commissioners have decided to take the work out of the hands of the joint agent, Mr. Doane, and do it themselves. The committee drew up a resolution, which will be recommended for adoption at the next meeting of the Board on Aug. 30, providing that the Commissioners shall take charge of the baggage and charge each of the trunk lines according to the amount handled. The Ontario passenger agent agreed to this, but Mr. Muller, who represented the Lackawanna, said he hadn't the authority to approve the plan, but he thought it would be satisfactory. It is not likely that Mr. Doane and his assistants will be disturbed. Until action is taken by the Board the present system will continue in operation.

Several representatives of Pacific roads were in town yesterday. One of them, who said he had conferred with nearly all the general passenger agents of the trunk lines, told a reporter that they latter admitted they were in the wrong in drawing the Western and transcontinental roads into the rate war only to correct local grievances. It was no affair of the transcontinental roads if the Lackawanna and Ontario lines received commissions from Western connections, and cut rates to the disadvantage of the other trunk lines.

"Several of the passenger agents of the trunk lines," he continued, "admitted that it was unprincipled, but all they said was: 'What else could we do?' It wasn't our business to answer that question. The transcontinental roads decided at the meeting on Saturday in Chicago not to accept less than pro rata on immigrants to San Francisco, and through Chairman Leach they notified Mr. Pierson to that effect. Mr. Pierson has paid no attention to this, and tickets are still on sale in Castle Garden for $35.50. The full pro rata will be charged against the trunk lines unless immigrants who travel west of the Mississippi River, and the trunk lines will be $12 out for every immigrant carried after Chairman Leach's notification. Nearly all the Western roads are opposed to being used as tools to punish delinquent members of the trunk line association, but their hands are so tied that many of them are afraid to say their souls are their own."

No Wall Paper Trust this Year.

There will be no wall paper trust this year. The meeting of the committee appointed by the association of manufacturers, which was to have been held yesterday, was held last Monday instead, and after live'y session broke up without coming to an agreement. It will not convene again, nor will the committee report to the association.

Another Raise in Coal Prices.

CHICAGO, Aug. 22.—At the next meeting of the local Coal Exchange the price of hard coal will be advanced 25 cents per ton, to meet the advanced freight rate which goes into effect on Sept. 1. Several dealers, discussing the situation yesterday, said that so far as future prices were concerned, a few men in New York would determine what would be done in a few days. It may did not advance the mining rate, and it was not at all likely that they would, the price here would simply be raised to meet the increased freight rate to Buffalo, to date from Sept. 1.

Court Calendars This Day.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.—Nos. 14, 20, 34, 39, 40, 104, 145, 146, 106, 107, 108, 175, 180, 181, 183.

SURROGATE'S COURT.—Wills of Patrick McManus at 10 A. M.; Alice Clark at 10½ A. M.; John Griffiths at 11 A. M.

Royal Baking Powder, Absolutely Pure.
For twenty-five years the standard.—Adv.

POLITICAL NOTES.

Politicians and All Others Should Read Them.

J. Hampden Robb is a probable candidate for Congress in the Twelfth Congress district, now represented by W. Bourke Cockran, who does not desire a renomination, and says he would not accept it.

The call for the United Labor State Convention, which is to be held in this city on Sept. 28, is signed by Edward McGlynn, Victor A. Wilder, John McMackin, Hugh Whorlskey, Gaybert Barnes, and John R. Siskenoy.

Warner Miller will be supported for Governor by New York city's solid delegation in the Republican State Convention, which is to assemble in Saratoga next Tuesday. The slating of Miller was arranged in Chicago two months ago, and the parties to it were Thomas C. Platt, Chauncey M. Depew, Frank Hiscock, and Mr. Miller himself. The conditions of the arrangement were: 1. That the New York delegation should give its votes to Mr. Depew in the Chicago Convention; 2. That Mr. Platt should have the naming of the national committeeman for New York (Senator Fassett); and 3. That should Mr. Depew's nomination for President become impossible or impracticable, Mr. Morton should have the second place on the Republican ticket. The fourth condition of the compact will be consummated when Mr. Miller is put up for Governor. He is a native of Oswego county and was born on Aug. 12, 1838. He graduated from Union College in 1860. On the breaking out of the war he enlisted as a private in the Fifth New York Cavalry and served under Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley. He was promoted to a Lieutenancy and was taken prisoner at the battle of Winchester. On his discharge he went to Europe, and after his return he established a wood pulp factory in the town of Herkimer, where his home is. He was a delegate to the National Republican Convention in Philadelphia in 1872 which nominated Grant for his second term, and he was elected to the State Assembly in 1874 and 1875. In 1878 and 1880 he was chosen to Congress, and on July 17, 1881, he was elected United States Senator to succeed Thomas C. Platt. He was defeated for reelection by Frank Hiscock.

The Furroy organization will hold its first ratification meeting on Saturday evening at the Academy of Music. The Commissioner claims that he has 165 election district campaign clubs regularly organized throughout town. This would give a Furroy party in one district in every five in the city. It is claimed that Assembly districts 5, 19, and 24 make the best showing in the matter of organization, and that but four Assembly districts are still unrepresented in the movement. Mr. Furroy had in view, according to his letter of withdrawal from the County Democracy three points of political policy:

1. Support of President Cleveland for reelection.
2. Support of Governor Hill for reelection.
3. Opposition to Mayor Hewitt for reelection.

Mr. Cleveland is supported for reelection by all factions of the city Democracy; Mr. Hill is supported for reelection by all New York Democrats, and by none more cordially than by the County Democrats. Hence Mr. Furroy's movement seems likely to resolve itself into opposition to Mayor Hewitt. The vigorous Mayor is pretty popular just now, and opposition to him in Democratic ranks is at a decided discount.

Mr. Levi P. Morton, the Republican candidate for Vice-President, resides and votes in the Thirtieth election district of the the Seventh Assembly. It is Republican, but went Cleveland in 1884, giving him 147 votes to 113 votes for Blaine. In 1886 Roosevelt, for Mayor, had 134, Hewitt 86, Henry George 11. The boundaries of the district are Sixteenth street, Broadway, Eighteenth street, and the Sixth avenue.

The Democratic leaders feel pretty certain of sending a solid Democratic delegation to Washington from New York city this year. The only Republican in the present delegation, Fitch, has bolted the party, and no formidable Republicans are named in any of the districts. It looks as if Cox, Cummings, Campbell, and Merriman would go back, with John Reilly and Joseph Blumenthal as probable new members, the districts of Gen. Spinola and Col. Bryce being still uncertain.

Charles Daniels has definitely withdrawn from the canvass for Judge of the Court of Appeals. He ran in 1886 and was defeated by Rufus W. Peckham by a majority of 7,816. Judge Rumsey of Bath is now spoken of for the Republican nomination.

Martin T. McMahon, now United States Marshal of this district, and for several years Receiver of Taxes, has been mentioned as a candidate on the Democratic side for Lieutenant-Governor this year. Gen. McMahon was assigned to service during the war as Adjutant-General on Jan. 1, 1863. He was appointed United States Minister to Paraguay in 1868, and in 1870 ran for Congress in the down-town district against Robert B. Roosevelt, who was married to Mrs. Fortescue in London on Saturday, and who is American Minister to the Netherlands. Mr. Roosevelt, who was the Tammany Hall candidate, was elected, his vote being 9,700, against 5,239 for Gen. McMahon.

Frederick A. Schroeder, who is spoken of on the Republican side for the nomination for Lieutenant-Governor, is a resident of Brooklyn. He was born in Treves, Prussia, on March 10, 1833, and was educated at the Treves Gymnasium until he reached the age of 16, when he emigrated with his father to the United States, arriving in New York in 1848. He learned the trade of cigarmaking, and commenced business on his own account before he was 21. He is the senior partner of the firm of Schroeder & Bon, engaged in leaf tobacco business in New York. He has been for many years President of the Germania Savings Bank of Brooklyn. He has always been a Republican, but never took any active part in politics until the year 1871, when, without his knowledge or consent, he was nominated for Comptroller of Brooklyn and elected. He served as Comptroller from 1872 to 1874; was elected Mayor in 1875, serving for two years, and declined a renomination in 1877. He was elected to the Senate in 1879 by a majority of 200 over Wm. W. Goodrich in a total vote of nearly 30,000.

Grover Cleveland's majority for Governor of New York State in 1882 is generally referred to as phenomenal. It was 192,854. David B. Hill running in the same year and on the same ticket had 196,781 majority for Lieutenant-Governor over E. Platt Carpenter.

It has been suggested that the President of the Board of Aldermen, to be nominated by the Democratic State Convention in November, should be one of this year's district members, and not a candidate having no experience of municipal legislation and accredited to no district. Under the Democratic rule of promotion, and in accordance with the Democratic principle of home rule, the presiding officer of a legislative board should previously have been an ordinary member of it. Among the list of possible candidates for President of the Board this year, are Walton Storm of the Twenty-first, Henry von Minden of the Tenth, James M. Fitzsimons of the Eighteenth, Cyrus O. Hubbell of the Twenty-third, and Philip Benjamin of the Eighth.

The National Democratic Committee has now its press and pamphlet department fully organized, and these are the documents circulated:

On the subject of the tariff: President Cleveland's Message, the Mills bill as passed, the tariff speeches in Congress (each separate) of Messrs. Mills, Carlisle, Springer, Colquitt, Scott, Cox, Hatch, Wilson, and Pitch; the Tammany Hall speech of Mr. Mills. And these pamphlets: Iowa and the Tariff; Indiana and the Tariff; Tariff History; Tariff Texts: Workingmen, Attention! Tariff Sermon on Republican Texts; Short Sermons; Wool Free; Salt! Workingmen's Party; Republicans Against; Convincing Trusts; Puck's Tariff articles, and the St. Louis platform.

On the subject of Union legislation: Speech of Congressman McKinnie; Union Veterans; Speech of Congressman Matson.

On the subject of public lands: Congressman McMillin's speech.

The remaining pamphlets relate to the tax on oleomargarine, an address to cigarmakers called, "Take Care of Your Own Interests," Senator Morgan's speech on the Chinese recent of Gen. Harrison, Mr. Cleveland's picture. One million of this form of campaign literature have been dirributed. It is the theory of the Democratic National committee that these pamphlets should reach the localies for which they are intended at least two weeks before any speaking canvass is begun. It is argued that durg the interim the various questions treated will have been discussed and understood.

The down-town wave which roll up such encouraging Democratic majorities in every political contest, have not been much faved in the way of nominations on the city and countiicket. This is especially true of Assembly districts 1d 2. The former last had a place on the general ticke when William Walsh was the successful Democratic candidate for County Clerk in 1873. The First Assembly is not presented a candidate since John Fox was pressd for the Sheriff nomination which William C. Conner selved in 1873. This year the lower districts are alive th expectancy. Col. M. C. Murphy is pressed by the City Democrats for Sheriff from the First Assembly, and Patrick Divver for the same office by the Tammany Hites in the Second Assembly.

Deaf Mutes' Convention.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt., Aug. 22.—The sixteenth biennial convention of the Deaf Mutes' Association closed after a three days' meeting yesterday. The chief feature of the Convention was a hot debate about the education of deafates in the Horace Mann Day School, at Boston, this city, different from that adopted in most schools in the country. It was condemned by a large majority. Among the prominent deaf mutes present were John Hollingshast, insurance agent of New Bedford; Prof. W. Weed of Hartford, John Donnelly, reporter, of Wocket, N. J., and E. A. Hodgson, editor of the *Deaf Mutes' Journal*, of New York. Officers were elected for next two years as follows: President, Oscar Kinsler of Rhode Island; Vice-President, J. H. Keefe of Vermont; Secretary, George B. Sawyer of Massachusetts; Treasurer, Levi A. Lester of Rhode Island.

Alley's Food Exhibition.

ALBANY, Aug. 22.—The details for the great food exhibition to be held in Albany, beginning Sept. 10, are all arranged. The display promises to be the best of the kind ever held in the country. Local associations of retail merchants and manufacturers are taking unusual interest in the show. The traders' demonstrations will be one of the popular features of the exhibition, and there is considerable rivalry between Albany and Troy as to their respective displays in the procession.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

New York Stock Exchange—Sales Aug. 22.

UNITED STATES AND STATE BONDS (IN 1,000s.)

5 U. S. 4s, r	125½	5 U. S. 4½s, c	107⅝
5 U. S. 4s, c	126½	1 Ala., Cl. A	104

CLOSING PRICES OF UNITED STATES BONDS.

	Bid.	Asked.		Bid.	Asked.
U. S. 4½s, r	109⅝	109¾	U. S. 6s, 1895	120	—
U. S. 4½s, c	107⅝	108	U. S. 6s, 1896	123½	—
U. S. 4s, r	125½	126	U. S. 6s, 1897