THE FIFTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

SENATOR SHOUP OF IDAHO IS SWORN IN AND TAKES HIS SEAT.

The Right of the State to Fix the Terms of Its Senators Questioned, and the Credentials Referred to the Committee—Hiscock and Hoar Advocate the Force Bill—The Gag Rule Before the Senate.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The Senate met at noon to-day. The Vice-President presented a communication from the Governor of Idaho transmitting the credentials of the Senators elect from that State, Messrs. George L. Shoup and William J. McConnell.

Mr. Hoar (Rep., Mass.) moved that as Mr. Shoup was present, the oath of office be administered to him.

Mr. Vance (Dem., N. C.) said that the new State of Idaho appeared to have elected more than its fair share of Senators, and he thought the credentials should be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Mr. Hoar said that as he understood there were only two Senators chosen from that State he thought that his motion took precedence of Mr. Vance's.

Mr. Hoar's motion was agreed to, and Mr. Shoup was escorted to the Clerk's desk, where he took the oath of office and subscribed to it.

Mr. Harris (Dem., Tenn.) subsequently inquired what had become of Mr. Vance's motion, and said that Mr. Shoup had been simply sworn on his prima facie case.

Mr. Vance said that it was published in the newspapers that three Senators had been elected in Idaho, and that the Legislature had gone to the extent of assigning to each of them the term for which he should serve. That was contrary to the rule of the Senate and to the constitutional provision. He thought it proper, therefore, that the question should be determined by the proper committee of the Senate.

Mr. Hoar argued that the question was a very simple one. It was clear and unquestionable that one of the two Senators whose credentials had just been presented would go out on the 4th of March, 1891, and the Legislature had elected a Senator for the term which would then begin. Beyond all question there would be a vacancy at that time, because one of those two gentlemen would have to go out on the 4th of March, 1891.

Mr. Carlisle (Dem., Ky.) argued that the Legislature of Idaho had no right to assume, in advance of action by the Senate, that there would be a vacancy in the Senate from that State on the 4th of March, 1891. No election of a Senator to fill such a vacancy could take place until it was legally known that that vacancy would occur. After it had been determined by the Senate in a constitutional way that there would be a vacancy after the 4th of March next, the Legislature of Idaho, if in session, might proceed at once to choose a Senator; and if the Legislature was not in session, an appointment of a Senator should be made by the Governor of the State. He imagined that there never had been a case in the history of the country where a State Legislature had chosen three Senators to one seat.

Mr. Hawley (Rep., Conn.)—Is it is not imperative under the Constitution that there shall be a vacancy after the 4th of March next?

Mr. Carlisle—I think so.

Mr. Hawley—Then how could the Legislature of Idaho be any more certain of that fact three months before the beginning of his term?

Mr. Carlisle—Each one of these gentlemen holds precisely the same form of credentials. Now, I want the Senator to state what the Senate would do in case all three of them presented their credentials at the same time? How would the Senate determine that two of them were legally elected and that one of them was not?

Mr. Hoar moved to lay on the table Mr. Vance's motion to refer the credentials to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. The vote resulted: Yeas, 221; nays, 15 (no quorum). The roll was then called, and fifty-three Senators answered to their names. This showed the presence of more than a quorum, but several of those present were paired, and could not vote.

At the suggestion of Mr. Hoar the call for the yeas and nays was withdrawn, his own motion to lay on the table was withdrawn, and Mr. Vance's motion to refer the credentials of Messrs. Shoup and McConnell to the Committee on Privileges and Elections was agreed to.

Mr. Carlisle introduced a joint resolution authorizing the President to appoint three commissioners, and to invite Canada to appoint the same number, to consider all questions affecting the commercial relations of the two countries under existing treaties, and to recommend to their respective Governments such reciprocal legislation as will settle all differences and controversies between the two countries, and in the opinion of the joint commission, best tend to promote the growth of trade and commerce between the two countries. It was referred to the Select Committee on Relations with Canada.

Mr. Aldrich (Rep., R. I.) offered the resolution for the amendment of the rules—which he had heretofore given notice of—and asked that it be printed and laid over.

Mr. Cockrell (Dem., Mo.) asked whether it was now in order to move to refer the resolution to the Committee on Rules.

Mr. Aldrich—No, sir. That motion will be in order when the resolution comes up. It is not now before the Senate.

Mr. Cockrell—Why is it not?

Mr. Aldrich—By my asking that it go over.

Mr. Cockrell—Then the Senator offers the resolution and then objects to it—asking that it go over?

Mr. Aldrich—That is the practical effect.

Mr. Cockrell—All right.

Mr. Stewart (Rep., Nev.) gave notice that to-morrow morning, immediately after the morning hour, he would move to take up the Senate bill reported from the Committee on Finance to provide against the contraction of the currency.

Mr. Gorman (Dem., Md.) moved to take up the bill for the adjustment of the accounts of laborers, workingmen, and mechanics under the Eight-hour law.

Mr. Hoar claimed that he had the floor on the Elections bill, and Mr. Gorman thereupon withdrew the motion. The Senate then resumed the consideration of the Elections bill, and Mr. Hoar yielded the floor to Mr. Hiscock (Rep., N. Y.), who addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

Mr. Hiscock said that it was remarkable that Senators should hesitate in their support of measures tending to secure honest elections, promote public virtue, and exact conformity of administration to the will of the people. He would not invade the jurisdiction of a State to deprive or dilute franchises in elections where Congress had the constitutional power, as in this case, to alleviate their wrongs, or more perfectly to secure their rights in cooperation with State authority, the Senate should not hesitate to accomplish it. One of the paramount rights of the qualified citizen was to voice his choice as to who should represent him in Congress, and that franchise he (Mr. Hiscock) would protect against all violence, obstruction, or abridgement, either by or without the sanction of laws or by the connivance and frauds of State officials or the ruffianism of her citizens.

Mr. Hiscock went on to discuss and explain the provisions of the pending measure, and declared that those provisions did not justify opposition to the bill, but rather invited the concurrence of all Senators. He added that they would receive, when understood, the approval of all fair-minded honest voters.

Mr. Hoar then addressed the Senate. He said that if the pending bill should become a law and should prove effectual, it would be the last of the great measures that had anything of the legal restraint which the changes in the Constitution had made necessary. Another measure, which he had fondly hoped would precede this one, would have to follow it. That was a measure to secure for every child on American soil the education which would fit him to read and understand the Constitution of his country. When these two things were brought to pass the era of the republic would be real. The struggle for the pending bill was a struggle for the last step toward establishing a doctrine to which the American people were pledged by their history, their Constitution, their opinions, and their interests. He rejected and repelled, with all the indignation which the calumny deserved, the aspersion that the bill was a partisan measure, or that any man who supported it was actuated by partisan purposes. Its supporters undoubtedly believed it to be true that the men who were now deprived of their constitutional rights were deprived of them because of their political opinions. It was also, of course, true that these men were violently or fraudulently deprived of their votes because of their political opinions. But that the operation of the bill would give one party an advantage over another—that it would help one party rather than another, except so far as an honest election would help one party rather than another—he utterly denied. The bill was one to exclude partisanship from the determination of a title to a place on the roll of the House of Representatives, as absolutely as the lot of humanity would admit.

Without concluding his speech Mr. Hoar yielded for an executive session, and the Senate at 5 o'clock adjourned.

Contest for a Seat in the Assembly.

OSWEGO, Dec. 29.—William B. Howard (Dem.) to-day began a contest for the seat of N. N. Stranahan (Rep.) in the Assembly, alleging gross irregularities in the ballot, fraud, and bribery. Mr. Stranahan's majority was 75. The preliminary evidence will be taken before Recorder Bulger of this city. Mr. Stranahan was Chairman of the Committee on Privileges and Elections last year and assisted in unseating two Democrats.

LIVE WASHINGTON TOPICS.

Things of Interest Happening In and Out of the Halls of Congress.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Indications are not wanting to show that it is the purpose of the majority of the Republican Senators to terminate the debate on the Elections bill. Mr. Aldrich's move this afternoon was one step in this direction, and the comment made by Senator Cockrell shows that the Democratic Senators are fully aware of the purpose of the majority. Mr. Aldrich to-day introduced the closure resolution, of which he gave notice a few days ago, and asked that it lie over under the rule. He refused to allow it to be referred to the Committee on Rules, for, owing to the absence of Senator Ingalls, that committee is evenly divided as to politics, and it might be possible for the Democratic members to delay the rule indefinitely before a report could be ordered upon it. The Republican Senators want to have the rule in such a position that it can be reached at short notice, and this wish has been met by Mr. Aldrich's conduct to-day. The purpose is to let the resolution go on the calendar, from which it can be taken up at any time by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Senate. Just when this will happen has not yet been determined, but it will doubtless be at the first moment when a quorum of Republican Senators are in attendance. The attendance in the Senate this morning was larger than had been expected, and the seating of Senator Shoup added one more to the Republican strength, which it is expected will be still further augmented by the arrival and seating of Senator McConnell within a day or two.

As to the treatment of the closure resolution when it comes before the Senate it is learned that it is the intention of the majority to allow a reasonable debate upon the proposition, but when it appears that the question is not being debated upon its merits, then an effort will be made to close the discussion and vote upon the adoption of the new rule.

Senator Hoar, the leader of the Elections bill forces, scored a point on Senator Gorman, leader of the opposition, to-day, although not altogether in a fair and open-handed way. After the Elections bill had been laid before the Senate, Mr. Hoar, in the nonchalant way often assumed by some of the old and so-called leading Senators when they are about to do something more than usually unparliamentary, called up a motion regarding a little bill of interest to one of his Boston constituents. The moment that subject was disposed of, Mr. Gorman, who is always on the watch for a chance to make a little headway in opposition to the Force bill, moved that the Senate take up one of the labor bills that has been on the calendar for some time vainly pleading for recognition. Mr. Hoar was astounded at the audacity of the Democratic leader, and he saw at once that it meant the temporary sidetracking of the Force bill. He thereupon, with his most entirely smiling expression, expressed his surprise that Mr. Gorman should attempt to play a sharp game, and assumed the attitude of a man about to address the Senate. It had been commonly reported that Mr. Hoar was to speak on the Force bill to-day, and Mr. Gorman, not wishing to be disrespectful, promptly said that if the Senator from Massachusetts, the father of the Elections bill, wished to take the floor he would withdraw his motion. Mr. Hoar then, without thanking the Senator for his courtesy, took the floor and immediately yielded it to Senator Hiscock. Mr. Gorman at once saw that he had wasted his politeness, and no doubt determined that he would not be caught again by such a shabby trick.

The Senate this afternoon confirmed the nomination of Judge Brown to be Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Senator Paddock, from the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, to-day reported, with unimportant amendments, the bill known as the Pure Food bill, for preventing adulteration and misbranding of food and drugs. The bill establishes a bureau under the Department of Agriculture, and provides for the appointment of a chief to examine samples of food and drugs sold in the United States or intended for foreign shipment. This chief is also to provide regulations under which the samples are to be subjected, and he is also to cause to have published in bulletins the results of the various analyses for distribution throughout the country. Harmful or deceptive adulteration of food or drugs is made punishable by fine and imprisonment.

SAID TO BE A POLITICAL MURDER.

The Killing of Postmaster Matthews of Carrollton, Miss.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The *Star* this evening prints the following:

"The killing of John Prentiss Matthews, the Postmaster at Carrollton, Miss., by young McBride, will probably turn out to be a cause célèbre. Matthews was shot down on the street by McBride. A reporter yesterday saw Mr. J. M. Matthews of Mississippi, who was the Republican candidate for Congress against Gen. Hooker at the last election, and who is also a brother of the dead man. Mr. Matthews had just received the following telegram from Carrollton:

"'John was murdered by a mob. He had been notified by a dozen men that a mob was going to kill him that day. He saw the men with their guns, and he got a rifle. When he did this the Sheriff arrested him and placed him under bonds. John pointed three men out to the Sheriff and asked him to arrest them and protect his life. The Sheriff refused. It was a plot and all were in it. John told Loyd, a young man, that if anything happened him, he thought they would kill him before night. He stayed at the Post-Office until his second dinner bell rang, when he said he would go to dinner. They begged him not to go, but he said he would. When he reached the hotel steps McBride, who was sitting in his drug store, shot him down with a shotgun, killing him instantly. Not satisfied with this, McBride fired five shots at him from a revolver after he was dead. The mob then began dancing and shouting around the body, with the most vile abuse and curses. John had received several anonymous letters, telling him he must leave the town. The murderer goes free, and all because they must have the Post Office at Carrollton.'

"'My brother,' said Mr. Matthews, 'was only 21 years old. He was a bright, intelligent boy. He was appointed Postmaster several months ago at Carrollton, and while there have been a number of threats against his life. I did not think anything would come of it. He was the first Republican Postmaster to take the Carrollton office for many years, and it was freely said that no Republican should hold the office.'

"Mr. Matthews, the dead man, comes of an old family in Mississippi. In 1883 his father was shot down by a mob at Hazelhurst, Miss.

WILL THEY CUT LOOSE?

Alabama Alliance Men Talk of Going It Alone in Future.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 29.—A meeting of Alliance slate makers was held here to-day to take action on the present political situation. One of the members said later that the Alliance men of the State are tired of their treatment by the machine which controls the Democratic party. "We went into the Gubernatorial campaign," said he, "and carried the State. We had a clear majority of the Convention elected. The machine, however, secured the Chairmanship, and by throwing two of our counties into the contest and unseating our delegates reversed the majority, thus making Jones, instead of Kolb, Governor.

"Then we went into the legislative election, and, after carrying it, many of the men who had pledged themselves to us strangely forgot their pledges and failed to support Kolb for Senator. The idea seems to be to hoodwink us by promises and to entrap us by sharp parliamentary usage, rendering our victories barren of result. The farmer goes into a public assembly looking for fair play, only to find some political schemer tying him hand and foot by points of parliamentary law of which he never heard before.

"The consultation to-day was to consider what we should do in this emergency. With but one exception the twenty-three delegates present favored an Alliance ticket, pure and simple, in every contest from now on, so that we will be entrapped no more. If the few whipsleneepers in Montgomery, Mobile, and Birmingham think they can carry Alabama without our aid, very well. They will be welcome to the victory when they get it."

It is supposed that the result of to-day's meeting will be referred to the various county Alliances, where final action will be taken. Gov. Jones ignores the Alliance completely.

Joins the Corporations.

The New York State Workingmen's Alliance has been incorporated "to establish correct social and political intercourse and stimulate and develop a more friendly spirit of true democracy among the working classes in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution and enlightened progress of justice and enterprise, believing in the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privilege to none." The managers are John Crelaston, Henry S. Scott, Frank Waters, Andrew S. Coey, and Andrew Ott.

Archer's Sureties Responsible.

TEWSON, Md., Dec. 29.—Judges Fowler and Burke have filed a written opinion overruling the demurrer to the State's replication in the Archer bond case. This ruling makes the sureties liable for the defalcations of ex-State Treasurer Archer, occurring between Feb. 13, 1888, and Nov. 13, 1889.

INJURED INNOCENT BUTTNER

TWO MORE VICTIMS OF THE DIVORCE SHARK HEARD FROM.

His Clerk, who Came Near Going Bail for Him, Concludes Not to, and the Lawyer Still Occupies a Jefferson Market Cell.

Mr. William H. Buttner, the divorce shark and part owner of the Broadway divorce mill so effectively exposed by THE SUN, didn't wear his dress suit when he appeared in the Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday morning. He wore a dark sack suit. It was the first time he had appeared in court in working clothes, and he had put on also a general air of bluff and outraged innocence and an overcoat with a fur collar.

Justice O'Reilly sat on the bench and Capt. McLaughlin asked him to let the case go over until Wednesday to enable the police to produce witnesses. The witnesses, he said, were all out of town, but they would surely be here by Wednesday. Buttner's face got very pale, and he began to grit his teeth.

"May it please your Honor," he said, "I should like to address the court in my own behalf. I have been treated outrageously—worse than any man who ever stood at the bar of a police court—and I demand the justice that would be accorded to any other man. I was arrested on Christmas night and locked up in Police Headquarters until Saturday, when Hughes, a self-convicted forger, brought a charge of grand larceny against me because I took $60 from a client for counsel fees two years ago (and Hughes took half of that, so that in reality I am only accused of taking $30). All sorts of crime are attributed to me by the people and the newspapers, but your Honor should consider only the charge made against me. I am the victim of newspaper persecution. The charge against me is merely a charge of larceny. I deny that I am guilty of any wrong."

"Wait a bit," said the Justice. "I do not allow newspaper statements to affect me, but I am informed that there are other charges against you. Besides, there is your confession."

"Yes, my confession," broke in the lawyer. "I tell you I have made no confession. I dictated a statement to Inspector Byrnes at the Inspector's request, but let your Honor read it and you will see that there is no inculpate me in any criminal action. It was done after I had passed through the famous thirty-third degree, and right here I would like to state that, while I have no complaint to make against Detectives Reilly and Von Gerichten, I do protest most emphatically against the treatment I was subjected to at Police Headquarters. I object to the methods practised to obtain confessions from prisoners. But the point, your Honor, is that the excitement made over my arrest has made it difficult for me to obtain the $3,000 bail demanded. I claim that this amount is excessive in a case where the charge is a larceny of $60. I ask you to treat the case as you would any other, and to reduce the amount of the bail so that I may have a chance to obtain it. I am not going to run away. I shall stay and fight this charge."

Justice O'Reilly reduced the bail to $2,000. Peter Thomas, Buttner's clerk, who had offered himself as bondsman when Buttner was first arraigned, was in court, and Buttner talked with him. His security would have been sufficient at the reduced bail, but he had got over his desire to risk his property, and wouldn't consent to sign a bond, and so Buttner went back to a cell.

The deaf and dumb man who, according to Buttner's jailor, gave the shark a "tongue lashing" on Sunday morning, was in court. His name is John F. Partington. In July, 1889, he says, he gave $75 to Buttner, to get him a divorce. He will make a complaint against the shark, if necessary. Detective Reilly has found another complainant, Mrs. Lizzie Conway of Newark, who says she gave $75 to the shark, and hasn't had her divorce yet. Philip Hilderbrand of 166 West Twenty-fifth street is another $75 victim. Inspector Byrnes is having these cases examined. Buttner's charge that Inspector Byrnes extorted a confession from him, Detective Phil Reilly, Detective Mangin, and Capt. McLaughlin say that it is false, and that Buttner made the confession of his own free will.

Lawyer Martin Flanigan, the Brooklyn man who had possession of one of the fraudulent divorces, issued from the Broadway mill to a client of his, and who says that his office boy returned the paper to Buttner or Hughes on the repayment of the money the client had paid for it, promised to be in court yesterday to identify Buttner as the man to whom the money was paid. He sent the following letter instead:

MR. PHIL REILLY—*Dear Sir:* On account of having sickness at home I will be unable to appear in court to-day as I had promised you. Mrs. Miller called at my office yesterday morning by advice of her father, as she had promised, and said she would be compelled to break the engagement. MARTIN FLANIGAN.

Perhaps the lawyer and Mrs. Miller will obey the subpœnas which will be served on them to insure their appearance to-morrow.

PASSAVANT & CO.'S BOYS ASKED FOR.

Proof Presented in Examiner Lesour's Favor Before the Powerful Three.

The Board of Appeal, the Powerful Three, of the General Appraisers, determined yesterday, in view of all the complications and the bitter personal feeling growing out of the investigation of Passavant & Co.'s glove importations, to invite the firm to submit its books for examination at 11 o'clock this morning. This invitation may be changed to a command if the Powerful Three so desire or the circumstances warrant.

Further testimony was taken yesterday. Some of the witnesses were representatives of Foster, Paul & Co., Marshall Field & Co., Chief Supervising Special Agent A. K. Tingle, Examiner Lesour, and Chief Wilbur. This part of the inquiry was directed toward ascertaining the effect of the recent advance in the price of kid skins in France, which Lesour says influenced him to raise the invoice values of Passavant & Co.'s gloves. Lesour's opponents say that there has been no such advance in skins. They say that Passavant & Co. made two shipments of suede gloves recently, but that these were one consignment, the November shipments leaving France on La Champagne, and Liverpool on the City of New York, within three days of each other. They arrived in New York within forty-eight hours of each other, and it is charged that Lesour passed the lot on the Champagne at a material advance in invoice values, but raised the values of the lot on the City of New York on the ground that kid skins had been advanced.

The representatives of the two firms testified yesterday before the Board that kid skins had been advanced, and this statement the action of Col. Jewell, who raised the valuation of the firm's invoices by 9 to 16 per cent.

After this evidence it was decided to invite the firm to produce its books. A decision will not be reached for several days, and, notwithstanding the fact that the people at the Appraiser's stores are prepared to submit some ugly stories about Lesour, the opinion yesterday was that the general appraisers appeared to favor Col. Jewell's report on the case. This is mere opinion, not authentic report.

The Union League Club Ticket.

The Nominating Committee of seven, sifted from the twenty members of the Union League Club, and consisting of John Sloane, John K. Cilley, Thomas Denny, Sigourney M. Fay, Col. S. V. R. Cruger, W. H. Hollister, and John R. Van Wormer submitted yesterday this ticket for the club's coming election:

For President, Chauncey M. Depew; for Vice-Presidents, Le Grand B. Cannon, Charles S. Smith, Levi P. Morton, Alfred Van Santwood, Joel B. Erhardt, Thomas H. Hubbard, Cornelius N. Bliss, Thomas C. Acton, Jesse Seligman, J. Pierpont Morgan, and Woodbury Langdon; for Secretary, J. Sayer Page; for Treasurer, George Montague; for Members of the Executive Committee, Brayton Ives, J. Adriance Bush, George H. Sargent, Charles H. Isham, and Frank C. Bundell; for Committee on Admissions, M. G. D. Bordet, Joseph Bushnell, Horace Bushnell, G. C. W. Lowrey; for Committee on Art, Thomas B. Clarke, A. E. M. Purdy, H. W. Watrous, W. G. Nichols, R. W. Van Buskirk, and S. H. Wales; for Committee on Library, G. M. Thompson, D. S. Everson, G. R. Gibson, P. de P. Ellsletts, E. H. Abbot, and W. S. Gibson; for Committee on Political Reform, E. B. Hinsdale and twelve others.

It was said that this ticket will unite all interests in the club and promote universal harmony.

Little Floy Calvin to Have a Monument.

Floy Calvin, only 7 years old, died yesterday at her home in Wales avenue, Jersey City. On election day, last November, she and some companions of about her own age were playing about a bonfire which they had built in a vacant lot. One of the children dared Floy to walk through the fire. She accepted the challenge. In a moment her clothing was in flames, and the other children, in their terror, ran away. When Floy reached home her clothing was burned off, and she was so severely burned that there was hardly a hope of saving her life. The little sufferer lingered until yesterday, when death came to her relief. Her companions were frequent visitors at the house, their presence helping to cheer her up and soothe her pain. The children in the Methodist Sunday school which she attended will erect a monument to her memory.

FOUR SWEEPERS TO A MILE.

Prof. Chandler Suggests Establishing a Permanent Uniformed Force.

Senator Fassett was not at yesterday's meeting of the Ivins committee in the Superior Court room. Senator Hendricks presided. Street cleaning foremen were the first witnesses examined. Foreman John H. Moore, whose district includes the Jewish quarter on the lower east side, testified that the district was swept every two days, half one day and half the next. If he had sixteen men to sweep instead of twelve he thought he could keep it clean, although numbers of the inhabitants, in spite of frequent arrests, empty ashes and garbage into the streets. Foreman Daniel M. Simpson, whose district runs from Houston street to Sixth, east of the Bowery, testified that he had seven laborers and thirteen carts to clean ten miles of streets. Sweeping machines are used also. He thought that four men should be assigned to each mile of streets to keep the streets properly clean.

Michael H. Whalen, superintendent of street cleaning, gave at Mr. Ivins's request, a list of the public offices he had held. He has been a fireman, a city marshal, an excise inspector, a custom inspector, superintendent of the Barge Office, a dockmaster, a building inspector, and an inspector in the Department of Public Works. Mr. Ivins thought he had the witness when the latter said that he inspected about half the city daily.

"Why that is 180 miles of streets," said Mr. Ivins.

Mr. Whalen explained that he travelled up and down the avenues and kept his eye on the cross streets. He attributed the failure to keep the streets clean to lack of money.

Prof. C. F. Chandler testified that the streets had never been clean to his recollection. Just as the old police and fire departments, under a guerilla system, were lacking in efficiency, so was the street cleaning department of to-day a failure. It should be modelled after the Fire Department or the Police Department. The block system was the proper one in the opinion of the witness. There should be an organized, uniformed, and permanent force of sweepers, four men to each mile, a second corps of men with carts to collect and cart away the sweepings and ashes, and a third force of men and carts to collect garbage. To employ a sufficient number of sweepers $691,200 would be necessary, while $432,000 would be required to furnish men and carts. An additional contingent fund for heavy snow storms, rentals, maintenance of plant, and the administration would bring the total cost of the block system up to $1,997,000 a year. The advantage of this system would be that there would be individual responsibility. Each employee in the department would have a certain territory to cover, and if he neglected his work the responsibility could be placed at once.

The committee took up the Department of Charities and Correction, calling President Porter. He testified that at this time of year many deserving mechanics who were out of employment gave themselves up, and he sent them to the work house for three or six months to be cared for, and they did plenty of service for the city in return by doing work on the Island. There was scarcely a profession, trade, or occupation not represented by inmates of the workhouse. Discharges from the Island were made at the recommendation of Police Justices. The Commissioner countersigned the discharge.

Mr. Ivins asked how it was that there were so many discharges just before election. The witness replied that he supposed that the men wanted a chance to vote. (Laughter.)

The committee will sit again to-day.

WAS HE MARRIED UNDER DURESS?

Mrs. Ennis Says There Was Nothing Uncommon in their Courtship and Wedding.

The circumstances attending the wedding of Frederick W. Ennis of 544 Herkimer street, Brooklyn, to Miss Clara L. Vermilyea of 636 Herkimer street, are to be investigated in the City Court, Brooklyn. Mr. Ennis, who is a son of Assessor Thomas Ennis of that city, is a Roman Catholic, and his wife is an Episcopalian. The husband wants the marriage annulled, on the ground that he was under duress when the ceremony was performed. The suit is brought by his father as guardian. Yesterday the young wife applied to Judge Van Wyck for alimony and a counsel fee of $250. The argument on the motion was adjourned by consent of counsel. Mrs. Ennis asserts that there was nothing at all uncommon about her courtship or her wedding, except that he failed to inform any member of his family of the proceeding. She is a very pretty girl of eighteen. Her parents live not far from the residence of the Ennis family, and young Ennis and Miss Vermilyea had known each other for years. Her side of the story is that he paid much attention to her for some time before their marriage, and frequently visited at her house. He proposed to her and was accepted, and her parents welcomed him to the house as their future son-in-law. They did not think he was concealing his engagement from his parents, or possibly they would not have received him so cordially. On Sept. 23, 1888, he took Miss Vermilyea to the residence of the Rev. Dr. Parker, the rector of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Fourth avenue, and the wedding took place. Young Mrs. Ennis says she has visited her husband's parents and has received by them as his wife. She has a son now a year old, but she says her husband has not furnished anything for its support. She has not ceased to live with her parents, who are poor, and she says her husband, whose relatives are well to do and keep him supplied with ample pocket money, is better able to support her and their child than her relatives are.

The friends of Ennis say he was only 16 when the marriage took place, but Miss Vermilyea says he was 18, or at least he told the minister so. She has been introduced to the world as his wife, and no mention has been made by him or his family until quite recently that the marriage was anything but lawful and binding. Mrs. Ennis adds that she doesn't know where her husband is just now.

SURPRISED THIS HORSE.

He Thought that Nothing but His Pull Could Bring that Truck Along.

A truck horse going from the Bowery to Broadway through Houston street yesterday afternoon concluded that he had done enough work for the day, hauling wheels over snow, and struck.

"Build a fire under him," said a long man with a hooked nose.

"Don't yer do it," shouted a diminutive newsboy. "Get out and push."

The driver got down, glared at the crowd as if he felt like fighting them all, and told a clerical-looking gentleman who had tapped him on the shoulder to "shut up," nearly scaring that person to death. A long line of trucks, wagons, and horse cars had halted in the thoroughfare between the two ridges of snow. Feeling that he would not be doing his duty to the city otherwise, a big policeman pushed himself forward and ordered the driver to move on. The crowd laughed.

Suddenly an idea seemed to strike the driver. He made a confidant of the policeman, and together they prepared to carry out the scheme. The truck next behind was a big one, drawn by two healthy looking horses with a long pole shaft which extended a foot ahead of them. The idea was to make the end of this pole fast to the tail of the first truck and start the healthy looking horses.

It worked. The balky horse did not seem to know what was the matter. He tried to back, but he wasn't good enough. The two healthy horses in the rear pushed harder and harder, and suddenly the procession started. The balky horse had decided to balk no more, and was trying instead to pull away from the mysterious propelling power in the rear. He would have run if he could.

After the procession had crossed Broadway the two vehicles were separated, and the perplexed balky horse disappeared on a tear down Houston street.

Forger Smith's Dwindling Assets.

The schedule of assets and liabilities of the estate of Forger Albert H. Smith was filed yesterday with the Clerk of Kings county. The nominal value of the assets in possession of Arthur E. Walradt, the assignee, is placed at $146,653, but this includes a number of stocks and bonds that it is said are absolutely worthless. The actual value, according to the assignee, is $4,226. Smith has besides an interest of $5,000 in the house at 204 Washington Park, Brooklyn; furniture originally worth $20,000, which will not bring more than $2,000 at an auction sale, and a $1,400 interest in a store at Lambertville, N. J., which the assignee says is not worth just now more than $5.

Policeman Nelson's Clean Record.

Policeman Thomas Nelson of the Gates avenue police station in Brooklyn will retire from the force to-morrow night after twenty-eight years of continuous service, during which not a single charge had ever been preferred against him. When he joined the force it consisted of only 287 men and Brooklyn had a population of only 266,000. The force now numbers 1,000 men and the population is almost 900,000.

"I AM A NEW MAN AGAIN."

THE WORDS OF C. F. WITTY OF BROOKLYN ABOUT HIS HEALTH.

He Gives All the Credit to Drs. McCoy and Wildman, Who Will Treat All Persons Suffering from Anything, Never Mind What the Nature of the Complaint May Be, if it is Possible to Cure or Give Relief, for the Sum of Five Dollars ($5) a Month, and Furnish All Medicines Prescribed Without Extra Charge. All Who Commence Treatment Before Jan. 1 Will be Charged Only $5 per Month as Long as They Are Under Treatment.

MR. C. F. WITTY, who lives at 218½ Spencer st., Brooklyn, says that he is a new man again. Here are his own words: "For the past five years I have been troubled with catarrh. I have been to several doctors, but none of them gave me any relief except Drs. McCoy and Wildman. They certainly have done wonders for me, and I am a new man again. The constant dropping of mucus into my throat almost set me crazy. I had such awful pains in my head and over my eyes that I could neither sleep nor go about my business with any regularity.

"Since I went under treatment with Drs. McCoy and Wildman I have had no dropping back in my throat at all. My head doesn't bother me any more, and, as I said, I am a new man again. I am able to attend to my business, and I am in better condition by far than I was when I commenced treatment under Drs. McCoy and Wildman."

DOCTORS

McCOY and WILDMAN,

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Near Grand Central Depot;
BROADWAY, Cor. 14TH ST., N. Y. City,
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Where all curable diseases are treated with success. Specialties: Catarrh, all throat and chest diseases, all nervous diseases, chronic diseases. If you live at a distance write for symptom blank. Address all mail to 8 East 23d st. Office hours—10 to 11 A. M., 2 to 4 P. M., 7 to 9 P. M. daily. Sundays 9 to 11 A. M., and 2 to 4 P. M.

THE COST OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Talk About Economy in the Board of Education—The St. Mary's Surrendered.

The Board of Education had a talk yesterday about the need of more primary schools. The talk started upon the presentation of a report from the Finance Committee approving the award of a contract for a new building at Broome and Ridge streets to Mahony Brothers, and asking for an appropriation of $137,500 for that purpose. Commissioners Lummis, Gerard, and Devoe did most of the talking. Mr. Gerard strongly opposed the appropriation, but he withdrew his objection and voted with the other fifteen members. That made up the sixteen votes necessary.

Mr. Devoe spoke strongly in denunciation of the policy of erecting large schoolhouses at enormous cost. "We have been wasting money," he declared, "and it is time we should consider the subject with great care." Commissioner Lummis took the same view and showed that some of the recent buildings cost nearly $500,000 apiece. Another report of the Finance Committee, which asks for an appropriation of $265,000 to erect a big building at Hester and Christie streets, was put over until the January meeting.

Notwithstanding all the speeches in behalf of the primary children, no resolution was proposed that the Committee on Buildings consider some better means of spending the money on hand and expected. But a resolution was adopted directing the committee to secure from the building fund an amount sufficient to provide a meeting hall for the Commissioners.

In the course of his speech Commissioner Lummis said that his plan is to abolish the grammar schools and to substitute a number of "common schools," in each of which shall be included the six lowest grades, now making the primary course, and the four lower grades of the present grammar course. In the tenth grade schools thus established there would be found 136,074 of the pupils of the 148,881 who are now distributed among 2,365 primary and 55,516 in the grammar schools. There are 12,797 children in the four upper grades of the present grammar schools, and these Mr. Lummis would place in various high schools. He would also put in these high schools the lower classes of the Normal College and the College of the City of New York. Mr. Lummis said that at some later meeting he would bring the matter formally before the Board.

A report was submitted and an attached resolution was adopted in favor of transferring the control of the nautical school ship St. Mary's to the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Grant objected last October to appropriating any money for its support. The Chamber of Commerce felt as did the Mayor, that the school was being mismanaged by the Board of Education, and asserted its willingness to take the school and make it a success. The Chamber of Commerce will probably urge the Legislature to make the cost of running the schoolship an item of State taxation, and if that be done the Chamber of Commerce will appoint directors from among its shipping merchants and offer a training in seamanship to those of our citizens, instead of merely to those of New York county.

The Board decided to drop Capt. A. F. Crownfinshield as the schoolship's commander, and in his place elected Capt. McGowan, provided the authorities at Washington will let him serve.

COL. SHEPARD PROVOKED TO ANGER.

He Points Out the Foolishness of Forging Checks as a Practical Joke.

When the Rev. Dr. T. De Witt Talmage began to boom his new Tabernacle project one of the subscriptions that came in was what appeared to be a check on the Second National Bank of this city for $10,000. A note accompanied it which announced that the writer just wanted to help the Tabernacle fund along a little. The check and the note purported to be signed by one of the staff of Col. Shepard's paper. Col. Shepard did not find out about the check until yesterday, when he sat down and wrote a series of scorching paragraphs for the benefit of the practical joker.

"The party," said Col. Shepard in his paper of yesterday, "who tried to fool Dr. Talmage is very Irish, and will have some more O, Oh, O's put to his name if he does not beware." Col. Shepard goes on to say:

"He is also very foolish—

"1st. To draw a check on a bank where the simulated individual does not kept an account.

"2d. To spell his name one way on the check and another in the letter enclosing it.

"3d. To spell his name wrongly every time.

"4th. To spell Dr. Talmage's name wrongly.

"5th. To date his letter in Brooklyn and post it in New York.

"6th. To lie by saying that a forgery would 'help along the good cause.'

"7th. To run against the State's prison by using Uncle Sam's mail for such a fraud.

"8th. To merit a sound thrashing from both of the gentlemen referred to.

"Moreover, he was favored (?) by a similar kind of a check a while ago purporting to be signed by our esteemed fellow citizen, James J. Coogan, Esq., on the same bank for $5,000 for the 'good cause' of Ireland.

"It may be that the perpetrator of these canards thinks there are 'heaps of fun' in trying to delude people with visions of the 'almighty dollar,' but if the eagle on it should pick his eyes out it would about serve him right."

Dr. Talmage said yesterday that the circumstance had almost slipped from his mind. He had received the check, but he knew it to be worthless at a glance. He hadn't thought about it since. Some one must have found it in his papers, he said, and sent it over to Col. Shepard.

Ill in his Pulpit.

The Rev. J. A. Seitz of Vermont became ill while he was preaching in the Church of Our Father, in Grand avenue, Brooklyn, on Sunday night. He was assisted from the pulpit and removed in a coach to the house of his son, Dr. O. Seitz, at 629 Marcy avenue, where he soon recovered.

SENSATIONS PETER OUT.

The Indictments Against Policeman Bleoo and Deputy Sheriff Hebbard Dismissed.

Policeman James J. Bleoo of the Union Market station was indicted by the Grand Jury on July 13 for assault and battery upon Johanna Young. It was alleged that Bleoo had been intimate with Miss Young for about a year, and that she accosted him with reproaches while he was on post, whereupon he arrested her. It was charged that on the way to the station he struck her in the face with his fist and clubbed her. In the station he made a charge of disorderly conduct.

In the General Sessions yesterday, before Recorder Smyth, Assistant District Attorney Parker moved that the indictment against Bleoo be dismissed. Investigation had convinced him that the prosecution was ill advised and without good grounds. He submitted to Recorder Smyth affidavits from Philip J. Kuntz, a poultry dealer of 121 Ridge street, Edward Coogan, lumber dealer of 430 East Houston street, and Robert Gill, salesman of 304 East Thirty-fourth street, to the effect that they happened to be near the scene of the meeting between Policeman Bleoo and Miss Young. Miss Young, they averred, approached Bleoo in an excited manner, and, after reproaching him for not keeping an engagement, abused him at the top of her voice. A crowd was collected, and Bleoo asked Miss