JEWISH WOMEN CONVENE.

FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

Delegates from All Sections of the Country Attended Its Opening Session at Tuxedo Hall Last Evening—Addresses on the Aims of the Organization.

The opening session of the first annual Convention of the National Council of Jewish Women was called to order in Tuxedo Hall, Madison avenue and Fifty-ninth street, at 8 o'clock last evening. Hannah G. Solomon of Chicago, President of the Council, presided. Every seat in the hall was filled and every inch of standing room in the aisles and about the entrances. It was an open session, and for that reason there were a number of men in the audience.

The platform was decorated with American flags, American Beauty roses, and white and yellow chrysanthemums. On the platform with the President were Mrs. Sophie Beer, Vice-President of the Council for this State; Mrs. Rebecca Kohut, President of the New York section; Mrs. Mary Lowe Dickinson, President of the National Council of Women of the United States; Mrs. E. Sander, President of the Treue Schwestern of this city; Dr. Henry Berkovitz of Philadelphia, President of the Jewish Chautauqua; the Hon. Oscar S. Straus, ex-Minister to Turkey and President of the Jewish Historical Society of New York; Dr. H. M. Leipziger, President of the Jewish Publication Society of this city, and Rabbi Gries of Cleveland.

The session opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Kohen of this city, after which Miss Julia Richman read messages of fraternal greeting from Jewish women's societies all over the country. Mrs. De Aoyelles then sang a contralto solo and responded to an encore. The President introduced Mrs. Sophie Beer of this city, who, on behalf of the New York State section, welcomed the delegates.

Mrs. Beer's address was a strong plea for united action on the part of Jewish women for the maintenance of the teachings and traditions of the Jewish race. Mrs. Beer asserted that Judaism is on a plane as high as or higher than Christianity on account of the capacity and intelligence of the followers of the ancient faith. The address was enthusiastically applauded.

An address of welcome to the city, on behalf of the New York section, was read by Mrs. Kohut. Mrs. Kohut has a fine presence and a particularly rich and musical voice, and so closely did her hearers follow the address that at times the dropping of a pin could have been heard in almost any part of the hall. Among other things Mrs. Kohut said:

"Without doubt a movement toward unity is in the air. The idea once existed that women had an inherent incapacity for combination and coöperation. The idea cannot longer prevail. Jewish women, at least, can work together, and so working, can achieve definite results. In bidding you welcome to our city, I am thrilled when I think of the possibilities which may be the outcome of this Convention. On the other side of the ocean, mothers in Israel, weary of the battle, and blindly foreseeing a happier lot for their children, wend their way to the church, and their lips utter words that their hearts cannot feel. They forsake Judaism, forgetting that their greatest and strongest weapon against its enemy, called anti-semitism, is, as we have learned so well, greater knowledge, greater faith, greater love. How beautiful is the contrast here to-night in the West. The women of Israel have convened here, fortified in their faith, because of renewed interest in it, because of a better understanding of Judaism, and united by a strong bond of affection, because we know we are sisters of a common religion. It almost seems as if we could see the Temple of old take form again, and Judea's walls rise, for the glory of Israel has returned.

"So much for the promise which went forth to Abraham. Let us not forget the command: 'Be thou a blessing!' Upon every Jewess, and more particularly upon every member of this Council, is laid the duty of being God's missionary in the fullest sense of the word. We are not necessarily to win souls by aggressive propaganda, which too often repels rather than attracts. We should be missionaries by the quiet force of a beautiful example.

"Every true Jewess is a priestess, and by the very strength of her unobtrusive belief is a witness for religion. When faith in God is the source of her virtues, when truth and integrity, gentleness and purity are the foundation stones of her life, then truly is she a blessing in Israel."

Mrs. Kohut called upon the women to keep sacred the Jewish Sabbath, which she characterized as the bulwark of Israel from time immemorial. She exhorted the mothers in the audience to bring up their children to venerate, to love, and to follow the Jewish Sabbath.

Mrs. Dickinson followed Mrs. Kohut, speaking not for Jewish woman, but for all American women to Jewish women. "I need not recall to your minds," said she, "that in the early ages woman was considered man's plaything, to be taken upon his knee and rewarded by the smile of his condescension. By and by, however, she rose a little higher to his heart and he took her to him, gave her his love and made her a part of him. Then, as the years went by, she rose from the heart to the head, and to-day man and woman stand together equal in intelligence and power. And they are standing together with clasped hands and bowed heads, waiting to receive the blessing from the God of children's race for their race. Let there be no separation between husband and wife, sister and brother, for husband and wife and sister and brother must stand together for all that makes the home—the bulwark of the nation."

Ellen M. Henrotin, President of Chicago, President of the Federation of Women's Clubs, was the next speaker. She said that the question asked by women of women nowadays is not: "Have you got a family tree?" or "What set do you belong to?" but "Are you a capable woman?" Women recognize that they have a work for humanity to do, and, therefore, there can be, in accomplishing that work, no Jew and no Gentile. Women must be sisters, and then there will be accomplished the sisterhood of woman and the federation of the world.

After Mrs. Sander had made an address in German, Mr. Straus told of some of the historical achievements of the Jews. He said that, contrary to the general belief, it wasn't Isabella of Spain who sent Columbus to discover a new world, but the Treasurer-General of Aragon, who was a Jew. This statement of Mr. Straus's surprised most of the audience, but he assured them that it was a historical fact. They took his word for it, and then all the women became good natured, because the speaker told them that it was expected and, in fact, conceded that the brightest pages in Jewish history would henceforth be those that recorded the deeds of Jewish women. The session closed with the address of the President of the Council, Mrs. Solomon, who said in part:

"Three years ago, at the Congress of Jewish Women, it was my privilege to extend to our guests, in the name of my city and of the Committee for the Congress, a hearty welcome to Chicago. It was upon that occasion that we became conscious of the possibility of an increasing purpose in our work, and this consciousness, crystallizing, found its expression in this, our national organization, the Council of Jewish Women, in whose name I bid you all welcome. * * * Objections have been made because we are a women's organization. We had not intended to exclude men. Whenever a section has desired to have men and women, we have endeavored to assist to the fullest extent; but no objections have been made by the men themselves. We expect to admit them whenever they clamor for admission. Up to the present time they have not clamored.

"Our programme provides for the study of Jewish history and literature, and the best methods of philanthropy to be pursued in small circles. We insisted upon the study of both branches of our work in order to widen the field for those who have been pursuing one or the other.

"We encourage our sections to undertake such practical work as their cities seem to require. We also provide that quarterly meetings be held at such time when wage workers can attend, thus ministering to the needs of our minorities.

"We realized from the first that a Jewish national organization had but two purposes for existence—religion and philanthropy—in this land of liberty, where the most sacred day in the life of a man should be the day on which he receives his right of citizenship. For the laws of the Jews were civic laws. Jewish virtue was inseparable from civic virtue. All the laws that were binding upon citizens were religious laws. Would that we Jewish women might ring the paean of religious liberty to all wherever they dwell—the right of citizenship to all who observe the laws!

"At our Congress a minor tone resounded for the affliction of our co-religionists in Russia. The only answer to our prayers was a mournful echo of our own helplessness; and to-night our hearts go out to our fellow beings in Armenia. Would we know the details of it all, let us read our own history, where torture, famine, and cold track with dead bodies our pilgrimage through the centuries. Let us hope for a time when the pure robe of religion will no more be trailed in the dust to cover national sins, greed, and ambition.

"We shall not attempt to accomplish all that other organizations have attempted and failed in. We have not come to criticise our rabbis, but we are aiming to become intelligent pupils, for sixteen to one is a small ratio when applied to women and men visiting our synagogues. We will not pose as literati to discuss the value of the Hutchins. Our papers are exponents of our needs. We are not here to create sentiment or compose a new melody for marching to Jerusalem; nor are we here to destroy faith in any dream or hope.

"Dionisio expressed from this platform will be those of the individual, and let us be tolerant, courteous, and just to each other. Let us realize what power is in our hands because of the national and international character of our work, to extend which is the duty of each individual member. Let us be entirely free from personalities, and yet have freest discussions. We are not here to advance the cause of Orthodoxy or reform, but for the truths of both—a sisterhood to study and discover the God idea as it is revealed to us in our history and religion."

The programme for to-day is as follows:

9:30 *A. M.*—Report of Committee on Credentials.
Report of Recording Secretary, Carrie M. Wolf, Chicago.
Report of Treasurer, Bertha A. Selz, Chicago.
Reports from Vice-Presidents, with sections in order of states.
2:30 *P. M.*—Paper, "The Council: Its Advantages, Needs, and Difficulties," Nellie L. Miller, Memphis.
3 *P. M.*—Report of National Corresponding Secretary, Sadie American, Chicago.
Paper, "The Council in Large Cities," Rachael Sulzberger, New York.
"The Council in Small Cities," Etta L. Nussbaum, Marion, Ind.
Discussion.

WOMAN THE MODERN MESSIAH.

Discourse by Rabbi Silverman on Her Place in Civilization.

"The Place of Woman in Modern Civilization" was the subject of the Rev. Dr. Joseph Silverman's discourse yesterday morning, in the Temple Emanu-El, Fifth avenue and Forty-third street. There was a large attendance, and many women listened with interest to Dr. Silverman's remarks. He said in part:

"It is commonly said by orators and by writers who treat of this subject that woman in ancient times was cruelly oppressed, and that through the intervention of some great hero, some Messiah, or some great institution like Christianity she has become emancipated. We are quite familiar with that argument. In Egypt she was a slave; in Greece, even when permitted to ascend the highways of culture, she merely reached the voluptuous state of an Aspasia; in Rome, though the matron, she was still inferior to man. Even Judaism is represented as having oppressed and degraded woman. Then with self-complacency they refer to their own Christianity as the emancipator. Frequently Jewish orators and writers fall into the same error. They try to explain away every discrimination that Jewish laws and practice made against woman, picture the worst feature of her condition among the nations, show her she is underestimated by Mohammedanism, unfairly treated by Christianity, and then point with pride to Biblical and Talmudic precepts and examples that allude in complimentary terms to womanly virtue. I do not wish to disparage what Christianity or what Judaism has done. Neither has been particularly harsh or particularly considerate in the treatment of woman. The faults are not the errors of men so much as the defects of the times.

"Woman does not owe her position in the world to day directly to any institution or being. Her destiny does not depend upon any one man, nation or religion. She is subject to the same laws that her strong brother is subject to. Just as man has emancipated himself, so has woman.

"Woman did not sit idly by and wait for the nineteenth century civilization to come and deliver her from thralldom. She herself rocked the cradle of civilization. Her very weakness proved to be her strength. It was woman who aided to raise man from barbarism to civilization. Man wanted polygamy, woman wanted monogamy, and her victory settled the question for all time whether we should have barbarism or civilization. Man wanted slavery, woman contended for freedom, and the shackles were broken. Man contended for supremacy in education, woman for an equal share in the pursuit of knowledge, and again was victorious.

"There are especially three fields in which woman can be effectively active—in the home, in the church, in the world. In the home she is destined to be the priestess, and draw all the members of the household around the family altar. If the wife and mother or sister but lead in prayer the others will follow. In the church woman must again show the man how to approach the Lord in the proper frame of soul and body. Whether the church shall degenerate into a mere exhibition of fashion and civility or shall be a transforming, uplifting power of the human soul, depends on woman. In the world of atheism and agnosticism woman is to battle for truth—for God. She shall teach and preach the Word of God to all and lift them up to higher realms of truth and light, right and justice. Let her be again both priestess and prophetess. Woman can do effective service in the removal of religious prejudices. Besides religion, philanthropy is woman's natural sphere of activity. She is destined in all the grades of philanthropy to aid materially in the forward march of civilization.

"Woman's place is not on the farm or at the forge, in the court or counting house. She is not fitted for a soldier or a statesman, has no place on the battlefield or at the ballot box. Her place is where the spirit of love holds sway.

"Woman is to become the modern Messiah, going forth to redeem the world from its superstition and its unhappiness, to purify the legislature and Congress, to bring cheer and hope into every home, to cleanse the Augean stables, to fumigate the prison and reform the prisoner, to stanch the wounds of the soldier and wave the flag of truce and peace; in short, to rule the world with truth and love, hope, faith, and charity."

AN "IDEAL" FOR THE JEWESSES.

An Editor Presents It to the National Council of Jewish Women.

Mrs. Rosa Sonneschein, the editor of the *American Jewess*, makes a criticism of the National Council of Jewish Women under her own signature. She alleges that "it has but an insignificant membership," though it is in the third year of its existence, and that only about 3,000 Jewesses belong to the sections of it which have been organized throughout the United States. She contrasts it with a number of other American organizations of women and bewails its feeble growth, while she also belittles some of the features of its business, such as the choosing of a badge. "No stereotyped phrases," she says, "no polite manners or social attention, no mutual admiration or condemnation, will cover the imperfections arising from the unsettled condition of the council."

Mrs. Sonneschein thinks that the Jewish Women's Council has not set up any "ideal" worthy of its name, and it is a curious suggestion which she makes when she speaks as follows:

"If the National Council of Jewish Women should adopt as an ideal the restoration of Jewish nationality, they would at once enlist the coöperation of their Jewish sisters in Europe; in fact, force a sisterhood of Jewish women all over the world, to strive for the realization of one great aim. The work may seem gigantic and out of woman's sphere, but at present it is the woman who has the time, the inclination, and the faculty to pursue great objects."

The editor of the *American Jewess* has already learned that the broad ideal which she would hold up before the National Council of Jewish Women does not meet with favor in the ranks. Most of the members prefer a more practicable ideal, one which it is not vain to look for the realization of, and one which looks toward the improvement of the Jewish community in the United States. The reëstablishment in Palestine of the ancient commonwealth of Israel is not likely to be brought about in this generation.

A distinguished rabbi says: "The main object of the Council of Jewesses is the revival of the orthodox Jewish faith in its purest and most exalted form." But not a few other rabbis are desirous that the council should leave the strictly religious work to the rabbinate appointed for divine service and for the worship of the synagogue, and should direct its attention to the carrying out of the philanthropic purposes which are mentioned in its constitution.

The proceedings of the Convention this week will be useful in assisting the members to understand the true aim of the council.

The *Hebrew Standard* gushingly speaks of the organized members of the council, of which the convention is representative, as "3,000 sweet, lovable creatures."

VACHERON'S TRIAL SET.

The Ex-Assemblyman Ready at Last to Face the Charge of Bribery.

ALBANY, Nov. 15.—The Vacheron bribery case has been set down for trial on Nov. 23 in the County Court, Judge Clifford D. Gregory presiding. Eugene F. Vacheron represented the Third district of Queens county in the Assembly of 1895. He was a Republican, and toward the end of the session was indicted by the Grand Jury of Albany county for bribery, on complaint of George Best, an ice dealer, of Cedar Hill, who charged him with having accepted $3,000 as a bribe to use his influence against and defeat certain amendments to a bill affecting the interests of the owners of Hudson River ice fields.

Vacheron was subsequently arrested, and from time to time, on the request of his counsel, the case has been postponed. District Attorney Fitzgerald and his assistant, Mr. John T. Cook, will conduct the prosecution. Ex-Assemblyman Vacheron will be defended by the Hon. John B. Stanchfield, who was leader of the Democrats in the Assembly a year ago, Judge Hugh Reilly, and Judge Andrew Hamilton of Albany.

The last bribery case tried in Albany was at the time of the Conklin-Platt Senatorial contest, when these men resigned their seats in the United States Senate because President Garfield did not appoint the man Mr. Conklin suggested for the Collectorship of the Port of New York, and desired that the State Legislature grant them a vote of confidence by returning them to the Senate. While the Legislature was in session Senator Loren B. Sessions, Republican, who represented Chautauqua, being from Olean, was indicted for bribery on the complaint of Assemblyman Samuel H. Bradley of Cattaraugus, who charged that he received $2,000 for his vote.

Supreme Court Justice D. Cady Herrick was then District Attorney of Albany. United States Supreme Court Justice Rufus W. Peckham, Hamilton Harris, and Henry Smith defended Sessions, and he was acquitted.

THAT BURIED DYNAMITE.

CONSTABLE HOCK TRIES TO REMEMBER WHERE HE PUT IT.

Park Laborers Will Go to Work Again To-Day to Try to Find It With Pick and Shovel—Hock Declares That It Still Has Some Hoisting Qualities Left In It.

"The next time pay day came around
Jim's pay a dollar short was found;
Says Jim, 'what fer?' Came this reply:
Ye're docked fer the time ye wuz up in the sky."
Lays of Labor.

Brooklyn park laborers who are employed in making roads and pathways in the new Myrtle Avenue Park, near Richmond Hill, may go to their work to-day filled with a profound sense of the solemnity of the above lines. Somewhere within quarter of a mile of George Grower's brewery, at the end of the park, there lies buried, but not dead, fifty pounds of dynamite. It is in light, loamy soil, a few feet from a group of three small trees whose trunks rise in such a way that a string run around them would from an equilateral triangle with a side measurement of two feet. These trees are somewhere along the side of a disused road through the tract known as Grower's Woods, about a quarter of a mile back from the Ridgewood and Richmond Hill trolley line.

Constable George Hock of Newtown buried the dynamite about three years ago. He had taken it from an Anarchist cachè under Crandall's whiting factory at Maspeth. There was one bomb made of a three-inch gas-pipe elbow, with a cap screwed on each end. On the outer side of the elbow a detonating cap is set into the bomb, and a lot of stick dynamite wrapped up and packed away in a heavy tin box. The real danger is that a workman's pick or spade may strike the cap on the bomb. There were a lot of those caps among the stuff seized by Constable Hock. He has had one or two of them lying around ever since. The other day he took one of them out and exhibited it to some of his friends. One of them, described by Mr. Hock as a "fresh duck," made derogatory comment upon the explosive quality of the caps after three years' exposure to air and moisture. The "fresh duck," at the Constable's request, placed the cap on a stone and hit it with a hammer.

"He sat down a darn sight quicker than he ever did before," said Constable Hock, "and if it wasn't dark I'd take you out and show you the hollow in the ground that he made when he struck."

Constable Hock spent Saturday afternoon nosing along the disused road by the side of which he buried the dynamite.

"Since I planted the stuff," he said, "a lot of new roads have been cut through there and the whole shape of the place has changed. John Fleming, who was District Attorney then, wouldn't pay my expenses out to sea to sink it. Says he 'I'll with it! Take it out in the woods and bury it,' and I did. You'd never believe that there could be so many clumps of three trees, triangle fashion, along one miserable unused road. I went out there Saturday, and there was a clump every few steps. There was a bend in the road three years ago, and I counted that the stuff was planted about 200 feet away from the bend. But there wasn't any bend. The bend was is all excavated away and there isn't any place to start to measure from. I dug around with my hands all Saturday until I wore my finger nails out. I didn't exactly want to use a pick."

"I used to know exactly where it was. Many a time I've followed a chowder party into Grower's Woods and watched to see where they settled down and built their fire. Wasn't no use to scare them, you know, if they didn't go near the place. Guess I might have hired George Grower's trade to have had it known. One Sunday I followed a Jamaica crowd in there, and they settled down and piled up stuff for their fire right on top of where the stuff was planted.

"I was just going to step in to warm them when along came well, I'd rather not say giving names, but God never made a meaner man. He shook hands with the crowd, and made himself completely to home. With that I got out and went down to the brewery, sat on the fence, and waited. I was there for hours, I reckon, but I wasn't any use taking chances on saving that fellow from being killed. But the stuff didn't go off. I heard afterward that the chowder kettle tipped over and put the fire out before it was fairly started. I was glad afterward that the stuff didn't break loose. Grower would have just raised hell with me, you know, for putting it there, and I don't want any quarrel with George Grower."

Hock and Constable Ernest Brechter, who helped him to bury the explosive, spent yesterday afternoon in Strobel's Hotel in Ridgewood. Brechter is a nervous and somewhat timid German. Hock is big and broad and fearless. They sat on opposite sides of a little table and argued fiercely about the spot where the dynamite was buried. Constable Hock grew wrathful when he was finally convinced that Brechter remembered no better than he did himself.

"Now, here," he said, "I'll go all over the thing again. You was driving. I had the dynamite in my hands. We drove up the road and turned the bend. I started to jump out and you hollered, 'Remember!'"

"Himmel. You think I forget myself so quick already? If I could forget so, I would be happy, right away."

"Then," continued Hock, "we went on down the road, and about five hundred feet down we stopped."

"Nein," interrupted Brechter, "ein tousend, I think."

"I had the bomb in my hand, so! And I leaned it against the tree, so! Then we scooped out the hole, so!"

"I know," assented Brechter. "I know."

"I wish you did," snorted Hock. "But now, see here, you were standing in between the trees. Try to remember just what those trees looked like."

"Mein gracious! How can I do dose things?"

"Well, try," commanded Hock. "Now I took the bomb, so, in both hands"—Mr. Hock used a beer glass for a bomb—"and I let it down soft like, so!"

Constable Hock's elbow struck the edge of the table and the glass fell on the floor with a crash.

Brechter fell out of his chair and scrambled for the door on all fours. When he came around he declined to discuss the subject further.

"We'll get at it again in a day or so," said Hock. "The stuff's got to come up."

MUSICIANS WANT A STRIKE.

The Fourteenth Street Theatre's Orchestra Again a Bone of Contention.

At the meeting of the Central Labor Union yesterday Delegate Mullen of the Manhattan Musical Union complained that Delegate Kelly of the Theatrical Protective Union had failed to keep his promise that the orchestra of the Fourteenth Street Theatre should consist only of members of the Manhattan Musical Union. Kelly retorted that he had made no such promise. He said he had been told by Manager Rosenquest of the Fourteenth Street Theatre that when the house opened this season he would have in its orchestra only musicians who were satisfactory to the C. L. U., and had reported this to the C. L. U.

"If musicians of another union are employed," Kelly said, "it is the fault of the Manhattan Musical Union. I notified Delegate Johnson of the union before the theatre opened to make arrangements with Mr. Rosenquest. He said that he would see to it."

A long wrangle ensued, ending in the adoption of a resolution that Delegate Kelly should see that none but union men—that is, Manhattan men—be employed in the orchestra. All the delegates except Kelly voted for the resolution.

Should Kelly carry out his instructions it might mean the ordering of a strike of theatrical mechanics to compel Mr. Rosenquest to employ only Manhattan Musical Union men.

DARED THEM TO LYNCH HIM.

Tom Sykes Awed the Mob and He Has Been Acquitted by the Courts.

COLUMBUS, Ga., Nov. 15.—The coolness of Tom Sykes, a white man who has been working for the Southern Railway, saved him from being lynched, and has just resulted in his acquittal by the courts of a heinous crime. Sykes was arrested charged with making an assault upon Louise Crouch, the daughter of a farmer living near this city. His description tallied with that of a tramp who visited the city and who was supposed to have attempted the outrage. He was identified by the child and her mother.

A crowd of angry countrymen, neighbors and friends of the Crouches, surrounded the man armed with rifles. The women called for the death of the man. A rope was placed around his neck, but standing there, and looking them in the eye, he declared his innocence, daring the men to put upon themselves and their children the curse of having taken the life of an innocent man. His coolness resulted in his being turned over to the proper authorities, and the full investigation by the courts has resulted in his acquittal.

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THE MARINE CORPS.

Its Prospects and Wants—Navy Figures—Yards and Docks.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15.—The marine guard of the Yorktown seems to have acquired laurels for its corps during a service of over three months at Seoul. Ensign Belknap complimented it, and Commander Stockton seconded his report, while Mr. Sill, our Minister to Corea, called it a model guard, and Rear Admiral McNair has expressed his pleasure at the complimentary notices.

It appears from the report of Col. Heywood that the addition of 410 men to the marine corps, out of 500 authorized by Congress, has made duty lighter and the men more content, as shown by decreases in desertions and punishments. The desertions in the corps were formerly astonishing in number, being even more remarkable than in the army; and if a decrease is now effected, there will be not only a better morale in the corps, but a saving in recruiting expenses. Col. Heywood urges that there should be fifteen Quartermaster Sergeants.

The suggestion is made also that there should be some increase of officers. Thus on a ship the Captain commanding the marine guard should have, he thinks, a Second Lieutenant with him, and on the battle ships and large cruisers there should be both a First and Second Lieutenant for a guard of sixty men. This calculation is based on the organization of an infantry company, but it is fair to add that practically two officers are sometimes as many as an infantry company in the army has on duty with it. Col. Heywood would have an increase in the number of Captains and Second Lieutenants, and a decrease in the number of First Lieutenants, with a rearrangement of the field officers' grades.

This last would give promotion to some senior Captains who are getting on in years. Thus Capt. Williams, the highest of them, is 54 years old, and while he was fortunate enough to be made a Captain when only 34, so drawing a Captain's pay early, yet twenty years in a grade is very long. Besides, if there are no casualties meanwhile except those of retirements for age the next four Captains will not become Majors until 60 years of age or more, except in the case of one of them, who will be 59.

The School of Application, under Capt. Murphy, although having only a small division of officers, and being in its infancy, has had a good year, and supplies a useful post-graduate course. It is noticeable, as showing the disposition of the corps to push forward under Secretary Herbert's policy of allowing the marines to handle a part of the ships' batteries, that Capt. Murphy reports that advantage was taken of the proximity of the naval ordnance works and the proving ground to study gun construction and witness the tests of guns, projectiles, and armor.

A new cap for marine corps officers is proposed, which will be three inches high in front and two and a half behind, with black leather visor, lined with green leather. The present ornament will be worn on it, except that Col. Heywood's cap will have in several particulars be more distinctive and costlier than that of his subordinates. This cap, however, has yet to be passed upon by Secretary Herbert.

The establishment of a naval reserve fleet, which will presumably be worked into practical effect when our international affairs become less threatening, is thought by Paymaster-General Stewart to demand the construction of special storehouses, so that stores taken from vessels out of commission may be kept more safely and at more economy. Additionally, floating barges should be provided for carrying stores more promptly from navy yards to vessels at anchor.

It is an interesting fact that the deposits of pay by seamen last year, drawing interest at 4 per cent., were $246,845.76, or nearly one-half more than for the previous year, and thus not wholly ascribable to the increase in the enlisted strength.

The effort to utilize old material has been continued, and the account of general stock has been reduced in four years from $11,190,586 to $7,132,969. The clothing factory at the Brooklyn yard now includes the naval militia and the revenue cutter service in its work.

Various estimates for the Brooklyn yard, including the dredging of all of the upper part of the Wallabout, have become necessary. At League Island repairs on the timber dry dock are needed, and should this be a reserve ship station, much money will have to be expended there. It has the great advantage of being a fresh-water station, but the soft mud and gravel will have to be dredged out to a depth of thirty feet. At Mare Island also there is need of dredging and of continuing the quay wall. These are estimates for the public yards and docks, but possibly Congress at the coming session may authorize new timber dry docks.

This week the Commission headed by Admiral Walker, which has been appointed to select the site of a deep-water harbor at Santa Monica or San Pedro, on the California coast, will meet to begin its work. The matter is one involving millions, and it has been vigorously contested by the friends of the rival sites.

FREE SHIPS AGAIN.

Commissioner Chamberlain's Report Strongly in Favor of Them.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15.—Despite the fact that there is no probability of either this Congress or the next passing a free ship bill, the Commissioner of Navigation, in his annual report given to the press to-night, refers prominently to the subject, and urges the necessity for the passage of such a measure. He invites attention to the fact that our maritime rank on the Pacific is now threatened by a new rival, Japan, which has just established a trans-Pacific steamship line to the United States, and, with the coöperation of American capital is preparing to extend the service rapidly. In 1880 the tonnage of American vessels entering the United States from the ports of Asia and Oceanica was 283,305 tons; of foreign vessels, 442,251 tons. Fifteen years later, in 1895, American tonnage had increased but a trifle, to 308,481 tons, while the foreign tonnage had leaped to 657,206 tons. The Commissioner says:

"The large and profitable carrying trade once conducted between Asiatic and European ports by American vessels which seldom entered American ports has almost entirely passed away. We have already seen the American flag almost wholly disappear from the mid-Atlantic, save as borne by the mail steamers of the American line, and the figures show that the carrying trade of the Pacific is slipping from us."

Before it is altogether lost, Commissioner Chamberlain suggests that Congress inquire into the conditions of trans-Pacific transportation. Within the last five years Japan's seagoing steamers have increased from thirteen of 27,701 tons to fifty-three of 166,383 tons. The number of American steel and iron steamers on the Pacific coast is forty-three, of 68,829 tons.

Opposition is expressed at some length to the proposition found in Senator Fry's bill, now before Congress, to impose 10 per cent. additional discriminating duties on all cargoes brought into the United States by foreign vessels. It points out that for over eighty years the United States has followed the policy of reciprocity in shipping, and declares that every other maritime nation of considerable rank has adopted and now pursues the same policy.

Our total imports for 1895 were valued at $731,969,965, of which $509,538,397 were brought in foreign vessels," the Commissioner says. "The discriminating duty bill would put an additional charge of $59,100,000 on our international exchanges, based on the figures for 1895, an amount approximately equal to our entire ocean freight bills on imports and exports."

In arguing against this tax the Commissioner cites the enormous importations of tea and coffee, aggregating in 1895 $275,000,000, and points out that the proposed tax would be a tax on the consumers of these articles. Of coffee from Brazil, $54,000,000 came in foreign vessels, and the proposed tax would equal $5,400,000, or sufficient, Mr. Chamberlain says, on coffee alone to subsidize steamship lines, including twenty-five steamers equal to the St. Louis or St. Paul, or a much larger number of the class required for South American, Asiatic, and African trade.

Much of the report is given to the consideration of this one question, and the Commissioner reaches the conclusion that the policy of discrimination "always has been and always will be thwarted by retaliation."

BATTLE WITH A BEAR.

He Showed Lots of Fight, and Mr. Lundy Was in a Ticklish Position.

OTTAWA, Nov. 15.—Word has just reached here that the Bampfield party of Niagara Falls, Ont., camping on Duck Lake, Parry Sound district, had a thrilling experience with a black bear. Frank Jeffries, John Bampfield, and W. L. Lundy tracked the bear to its lair in a swamp, where Jeffries succeeded in wounding it. Turning suddenly, the bear attacked Mr. Lundy, who at close range sent a bullet into it, notwithstanding which there was still lots of fight in bruin.

In less time than it takes to tell it the brute had almost closed on Mr. Lundy, who drew his hunting knife. He was prepared for the worst, when a ball from Mr. Charles Doran's rifle pierced the bear in a vital spot. Old settlers say that the bear is one of the largest seen in this section for years.

Called to All Souls' Church, Plainfield.

PLAINFIELD, N. J., Nov. 15.—The congregation of All Souls' Unitarian Church in this city has extended a call to the Rev. A. H. Nickerson of Exeter, N. H., to succeed the Rev. Hubart Clark, resigned, as pastor.

PILGRIMS TO SEE PLATT.

THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SLATE IS IN HAND NOW.

James C. Crawford for Sergeant-at-Arms—Trying to Keep Lauterbach at the Head of the County Organization—The McKinley League Doesn't Seem to Go to Pa.

Among Mr. Platt's callers at the Fifth Avenue Hotel yesterday were many Assemblymen-elect. Now is the time when slates are made for the Legislature, and Chairmanships of good Assembly committees are in demand. Some of Mr. Platt's other callers were Chairman Hackett of the Republican State Committee, President Lauterbach of the County Committee, National Committeeman Frederick S. Gibbs, Congressman Warren B. Hooker of the Chautauqua district, and Rowland Blennerhasset Mahany of Buffalo, Superintendent of Public Works George W. Aldridge, and Bank Superintendent Kilburn. Of the State legislators were Senator Hobart Krum, and Assemblymen George S. Horton of Wayne county and George C. Austin and Harvey T. Andrews of this city.

Congressman Hooker wants to retain in the next Congress his place as Chairman of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors, and young Mr. Mahany of Buffalo has his eyes set on the Chairmanship of the House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. Both men would like the backing of the State leader for the places they seek. Mahany urges in his behalf that he ran ahead of the electoral ticket in his Congress district.

Assemblyman Horton came to town a candidate for the Speakership. Of course, no one believed him a bona fide candidate. It was known that he was playing for a place. He said yesterday that he thought the Chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee would just about suit him. Mr. Horton said he was for O'Grady for Speaker and for Nixon of Chautauqua for leader. Assemblyman Austin will be content, if he is retained in his Chairmanship of the Committee on Cities. Assemblyman Andrews would like very much to be Chairman of the Committee on Railroads, but New York city cannot expect to have all the good things if it did give a plurality for the Republican ticket this year. If he can't have the Chairmanship of the Railroads Committee it is said that Andrews will be content with that of the Insurance Committee. It has been suggested that the attitude of partiality toward the organization adopted by young James W. Husted of Westchester has been such that he may be deprived of the Chairmanship of that Committee. Mr. Platt listens to all these suggestions but says nothing.

Who shall be Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff to the new Governor is still unsettled, and bids fair to remain in that condition for a few weeks yet. C. Whitney Tillinghast of Troy, who is a candidate for the place against Adjt.-Gen. McAlpin, arrived yet in the city last night. He is making a vigorous canvass.

It is practically settled that James C. Crawford of the Twenty-ninth Assembly district of this city will be the new Sergeant-at-Arms of the Assembly. P. William Reinhard, Jr., who holds that place in the present Assembly, was elected Assemblyman from the Thirty-fourth district. Besides Crawford, ex-Assemblyman George Gregory of the Fifth district was a candidate, but he withdrew from the field yesterday in favor of Crawford.

Although Mr. Lauterbach persists in his determination not to accept reëlection as President, he will probably be induced to change his mind, his friends in the organization insist that he must serve another term, and declare that they will elect him willy nilly. The voice of this county will be more potent in the next State Convention of the party than it ever was before. The reason of this is that the seats in the State Convention is the vote for Governor. The leader who can take 215 delegates from this city to the next State Convention will be a very potent factor in that body, and that is what Mr. Lauterbach can do, his friends say, if he will consent to remain at the head of the local organization. New York's representation in the last State Convention was only 135.

The efforts of the anti-Platt men of the McKinley League to build up a separate county organization have met with a serious setback, it is said. A paper circulated to get pledges from Republicans to join and support an independent county committee was signed by such men as John Little, William Brookfield, William F. Daly, and others who were prominent in the McKinley League anti-Platt movement. It was presented to Cornelius N. Bliss for his signature, and Mr. Bliss, it is said, refused to add his name. William Henkel, the leader in the Eighteenth district, who is now a consistent anti-Platt man, and who is a great admirer and firm supporter of Mr. Bliss, has also refused to join the new movement. So has Martin H. Healey, the leader in the First Assembly district, who has always been against the majority of the Republican organization. The new movement, too, is frowned on by Mayor Strong, and altogether it stands a chance of dying a-borning.

Chairman Hackett of the State Committee will leave to-day with Mrs. Hackett for a two weeks' rest at Atlantic City.

M'KINLEY'S CLEVELAND VISIT.

The Trip to the Forest City May Be Postponed Again.

CANTON, O., Nov. 15.—Major and Mrs. McKinley's trip to Cleveland may again be postponed. It was announced a week and a half ago that they would leave in a few days for the Forest City. Then the condition of Mrs. McKinley became such that the date of going was changed. After this came the invitation from the Union Club of Cleveland, requesting the presence of Major McKinley at a dinner to be given to Chairman Hanna to-morrow evening. To this the President-elect replied, as he has done to all other invitations received in the half dozen months past, that he was compelled to decline. Tuesday or Wednesday of this week was finally chosen as the time to go to Cleveland for the rest which change would bring.

Today it was announced that a member of the McKinley household thought there is great uncertainty as to the visit. It seems to have occurred to Major McKinley and close personal friends that it would not be in best taste to decline to be a guest at the Union Club on Monday night and be feted by the club and then come to city on Tuesday, although every member of the club knows why he refused to attend the dinner. So it comes to pass that the trip to Cleveland is not definitely decided on.

Those who were at the Fifth avenue M. E. Church today at the close of the morning service witnessed an act by McKinley characteristic of the man. They saw him assist his aged mother, who is well toward the four-score-and-eight mark, into her carriage, doff his hat to mother and sister with a flourish, and then start for home. Major McKinley, as usual, was in his pew at the morning church service and sat beside his mother and sister and gave his accustomed attention to the sermon by the pastor. The text for the occasion was taken from the 147th Psalm, which is a praise psalm. It was noticed that the word victory was an agreeable sound to the Major.

Mr. McKinley was accompanied to church by Webb C. Hayes, son of the late R. B. Hayes, and by Capt. H. C. Corbin, aide, and a member of the McKinley household. Together the trio walked to and from the church. Mr. Hayes lunched with the McKinleys to-day. He has been frequently a guest of the family during their residence at Columbus and has become a familiar one before during the campaign just closed. He is a special favorite young friend of the Major, and it will not be at all surprising if his name is coupled with an appointment after March 4.

After lunch today Major McKinley, accompanied by Mr. Hayes, took a drive through the city and made the usual daily call on Mother McKinley. The drive was relished by the President-elect, who looked, as he says he is, in excellent health. He acknowledged the salutations of many acquaintances on the street. The drive was prolonged, so that twilight was gathering when he reached home. Mrs. McKinley has not been strong enough to enjoy a drive for three weeks, but she was better to-day than for some time.

Major McKinley delights in reading the newspapers. He has displayed unusual interest in the speculations and anticipations of the Cabinet makers of the country, but he retains a marked reticence upon the suggestions as to the probable makeup of his official associates. It is evident that the President-elect has not made up his mind as to the formation of his Cabinet, nor even decided upon the geographical allotment of places therein. It is further apparent that Major McKinley will not consider Cabinet candidates until after his return from his visit to Cleveland.

Since Chauncey M. Depew has ceased to be talked about so frequently for Secretary of State, there has been a good deal of discussion here of the probability of his being appoint