JERSEY SQUATTERS MOVED

LOCOMOTIVES TEAR DOWN THE SHANTIES AT SOUTH COVE.

End of a Long Fight by Jersey City and the Lehigh Railroad to Get Possession of Valuable Water Front at Communipaw—King Matt Bradley Is Defiant, but Succumbs.

Old Matt Bradley of the South Cove in Jersey City stood on the gangway leading to his squatter shanty, for the last time yesterday. His one good eye gazed mournfully upon the scenes of destruction about him. Where at daybreak has stood a long row of his neighbors' shanties there were now heaps of old lumber and piles of worn furniture. Hurrying gangs of laborers were pitching the remnants of shanties and beached canal boats on to a long line of flat cars.

Below where he stood a gang of men had fastened a chain and hawser around the only shanty left except his own, and now a big engine attached to the other end of the hawser gave a mighty "kerchug," and the shanty fell into pieces.

OLD MATT BRADLEY.

Mat pulled his old brown hat further down on his head, stroked his long white whiskers, and turned his mournful eye on Chief of Police Murphy of Jersey City. He spat upon the gangway, stroked his beard again, and said:

"Gentlemen, gentlemen, it is time to reit-re-it-er-ate again Bobby Burns's old adage: 'Man's inhumanity to man makes counties sthousands mourn.' Then I-e turned and left what had been his home for thirty years.

All the squatters of South Cove, except those on Jersey Central Railroad land were turned out yesterday, and this included not only those who lived along the tongue of land between the Morris Canal and the South Cove, but the dwellers in the canal boat hulks which were clustered together at the east end of the cove beyond the Jersey Central tracks.

OLD MATT'S HOME.

The squatters' village in Jersey City had not its like in this part of the country. It was ill-favored and dirty, full of women old before their time, and its population was a subject of general suspicion. The squatters were originally from all races, but soon became of none, an off-scouring of civilization. The squatter village ran along South Cove for perhaps three-quarters of a mile. Its first and better section lay along a narrow strip of land between Jersey avenue and Henderson street. This tongue of land runs from thirty to sixty feet in width and belongs to the Jersey Central and Lehigh Valley Railroads, the latter owning a third of it, and it has a single track on it running by the side of the Morris Canal.

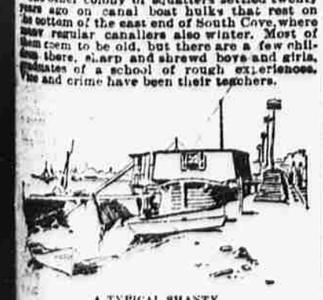
On the strips of ground between the track and the water, which were sometimes wholly flooded at high tide, lived, until yesterday, thirty or forty families. Their houses were marvelous contrivances. Some of them were the flimsiest of shanties, old boards nailed together and fastened to the top of rotten piles that threatened to fall at any minute. Some were built on the decks of old rotting hulks of canal boats. Each of these shanties was reached by a narrow board gangway. Other shanties looked more substantial because they were built on solid ground and were surrounded by sheds and outbuildings, but their substantiality stopped there, for a strong man could put his fist through the walls of almost any of them without great effort.

MOVING THE FURNITURE.

The shanty dwellers got their living in devious ways. A few of them let out skiffs in the summer time. Some collected driftwood and old building material, which they sold for kindlings, and some collected and sold junk.

The king of the colony was Matt Bradley, who lived in a rather pretentious shanty that stood upon rickety piles. He was a policeman once in Jersey City, but he had an unfortunate way of getting into trouble, and thirty-odd years ago he was broken. When he left the public service he came to Squatterville, and there he lived in the same shanty until it was demolished yesterday. In that time he has come now and then into public notice. For twenty years he had a liquor license and sold Jersey lightning. That was one of the causes of his coming into public view. Then he used to have cock fights in his place that drew thither the sporting fraternity of Communipaw. He lost an eye at one of these fights, but one of his pet birds stuck his gaff into his right eye and tore it out. But he saw the fight though. Then he couldn't get along with the neighboring women folks. Only two weeks ago a muscular Irish woman gave him a tremendous walloping.

The other colony of squatters settled twenty years ago on canal boat hulks that rest on the bottom of the east end of South Cove, where many regular canallers also winter. Most of them seem to be old, but there are a few children there, sharp and shrewd boys and girls, graduates of a school of rough experiences. Vice and crime have been their teachers.



A TYPICAL SHANTY.

These settlements occupied what has become very valuable property, and long ago Jersey City and the Lehigh Valley Railroad began in earnest to move the squatters away. The operation proved to be long and tedious, and it was not until recently that writs of ejectment could be served upon the residents. The writs were received with laughter and jeers. Matt Bradley said that he had enjoyed undisputed possession of his place for thirty years, and no railroad or law could put him out, and the first man who tried to do it would have daylight let into him.

A second warning was given on Wednesday, but it was again laughed at. But their time had come. Those that are on Jersey Central land will have at least two weeks' more grace, for they have not been served with writs yet.

Bright and early yesterday morning four patrol wagons full of policemen came down to Squatterville. Inspector Lange was in command, and under him were Capts. McNulty and Cox, each with twenty-five men. Capt. McNulty covered the bridge across the canal at Jersey avenue and deployed his men along the strip of land on which King Matt's village stood. Capt. Cox covered the bridge at Henderson street and scattered his men around the canal boats.

The police had hardly time to take their places when, with a tremendous "choo-choo-ah," a long train of flat cars came down the Lehigh track with an engine at each end. On the flat cars were two hundred laborers armed with crowbars and axes, hammers and shovels.

King Matt stood at his door and hurled oaths and defiance at them. The workmen jeered at him, and he became madder than ever and then, with a terrific oath to do damage, he rushed into the house and brought out a rusty old musket.

"I da-ar ye to come," he shouted. "I da-ar ye to come to me house. I'll shoot clean through the first man that comes. I da-ar ye."

The other squatters had nothing to say. They learned that work was not to begin until 10 o'clock, and they made haste to carry away their household goods. In a minute the canal was alive with boats, coming to Squatterville empty and going to the other side laden deep with tables, chairs, stoves, bedding, and other furniture. It was found that but a dozen houses stood on the property of the Lehigh Company, and all of these were soon emptied of all they contained. Junk, old wood, old bottles, windows, everything that was movable was taken away, and father, some of the squatters brought drays and horses and began to tear down their old homes so that they could keep the material of which they were made. But old Matt still held his fort, and to emphasize it hoisted to the top of his flagpole the Stars and Stripes, and as it fluttered bravely in the breeze he cried out:

"Thar, now, I da-ar ye to cum and take that down. I da-ar ye to insult the flag by trailin' it in the dust."

About 10 o'clock Superintendent Donnelly of the Lehigh road, Chief of Police Murphy, and Sheriff Heller put in an appearance and the word was given. The gang of laborers swooped down upon the shanties, and in an hour not one remained except Matt Bradley's. Whenever a particularly solid one was found a hawser was put around it and the hawser attached to one of the engines, which pulled the shanty off its foundations in a jiffy. No opposition was met with except from Matt Bradley.

When Chief Murphy and Superintendent Donnelly arrived Matt had made no move. He stood in the door of his shanty and gazed with scorn in his one eye upon his spiritless neighbors. Chief Murphy reasoned with him.

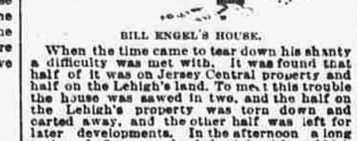
"Look here, Matt," he said, "you've got to move. If you don't go of your own accord we shall have to force you to go."

"I've lived here thirty year," said Matt, "an' you ain't got no right to move me."

"I'll tell you what I'll do, Matt," said Superintendent Donnelly. "I'll have my men move your stuff for you wherever you want to go."

Matt softened when he heard this, and said: "I've got another place down yonder, and if you'll move my goods I'll go."

Bradley's other place was a great arklike building on piles a few yards away on Jersey Central property. Superintendent Donnelly kept his word, and King Matt pulled down his flag and sorrowfully quoted Bobby Burns. The gang carried over his furniture and firewood, his old junk, and about three gross of empty flat brown bottles that each held one pint.



BILL ENGEL'S HOUSE.

When the time came to tear down his shanty a difficulty was met with. It was found that half of it was on Jersey Central property and half on the Lehigh's land. To meet this trouble the house was sawed in two, and the half on the Lehigh's property was torn down and carted away, and the other half was left for later developments. In the afternoon a long train of flat cars loaded high with rubbish was pulled away from the strip of land, and with it went two-thirds of Squatterville.

There was dismay among the dwellers on the hulks of the old canal boats also. Early in the day President Brown of the Jersey City Street and Water Commission put men at work tearing down a few shanties at the extreme east end of the cove. Then ex-Senator Edwards, the city's counsel in the matter; Capt. Smith of the commission, and Police Captain Cox went from boat to boat warning the inhabitants to get out at once. Hags and men cursed them as they went their rounds. One man pleaded with the evicters for time.

It was found that his five-months-old baby was dying, and time was given to him. From some of the more notorious boats the owners had fled and locked up the shanties. These places were burst open, and the work of destruction begun on them.

Bill Engels had a scow about twenty-five feet long and six feet wide, with a little house built on it. Against this the scow was high and dry; at high tide it floated. He wanted time so that he could get out and take his craft to Hackensack. But he didn't get it, and his boat will go the way of the rest.

It will require two or three days' work to break up the old hulks, but when they are gone, save for the few shanties on the property of the Jersey Central Railroad, Squatterville at South Cove will be a thing of the past.

TWO MEN AND TWO WIVES SUE.

One Matron Says Her Lord Put on False Hair and Shadowed Her.

Mary Steinbach is suing Ferdinand Steinbach in the Supreme Court for a divorce, following on the heels of an action for divorce he brought against her in Dakota, in which action he failed. She says that he used to smash the crockery at home, and that one night, when she fell from a ladder and broke a leg, he went out for a physician and remained out until next morning. She avers that he offered to fit her out at an expense of $100 if she would find some one to elope with. Steinbach, who keeps a marble yard, denies her statements. Her motion for counsel fee and alimony, coming up before Justice Smyth yesterday, went over to Tuesday.

James McClevey, an engineer in the Fire Department, has brought suit against his wife Johanna for an absolute divorce, accusing her of intimacy with Edward Gallagher and John M. Tormack. She replies that he is full of causeless jealousy and that he has been shadowing her about the city with false hair on his face.

John C. Scully sued his wife Lena for an absolute divorce in 1890, but the suit lay dormant until March 10 last, when he had it advanced for trial among undefended causes. In 1896, regardless of this action, she sued him for absolute divorce, and that action has not come on for trial. She has obtained leave from Justice Smyth to open the default in his action and defend it. He charges her with living in 1890 with Henry Jostine at 336 West Forty-ninth street.

TAMSEN LOSING HIS GUESTS.

Not a United States Prisoner in the Ludlow Street Jail Awaiting Trial.

For the first time in many years Ludlow street jail contains no Federal prisoner awaiting trial. There are a few there undergoing and others awaiting sentence, but with the conviction of of William Grumme, the counterfeiter, yesterday in the United States Court, the last of a large number of United States prisoners was removed from the trial waiting list. Grumme was arrested several months ago on a charge of having made and passed counterfeit 50-cent pieces. His accomplice, Philip Sheridan, arrested at the same time, pleaded guilty last Monday. The two men had counterfeiting plants at 318 and 332 East Fifty-seventh street.

At Grumme's trial yesterday his counsel sought to exclude the testimony of J. J. Cassidy on the ground that he was an ex-convict, having served terms of imprisonment on Blackwell's Island and elsewhere. Judge Brown allowed the testimony. Grumme will probably be sentenced this morning.

KNOWER PLACE NOT BIG ENOUGH.

Harry Payne Whitney Buys More Land Adjoining His Newport Grounds.

NEWPORT, R. I., April 1.—Harry Payne Whitney, son of ex-Secretary W. C. Whitney and son-in-law of Cornelius Vanderbilt, made a visit of inspection last week to the Knower place, which he bought early in the winter for $200,000. He was much pleased with it, but, although the grounds are large, he felt that all the space not covered by the house should be made available for lawn purposes. Deblois & Eldredge have therefore sold to him eight lots of land on Coggeshall avenue, near Bancroft, and next south of Hermann Oelrichs's property, containing 36,000 square feet. Upon this he will have erected a gardener's house, large greenhouses and stables. Plans have been made and work will be begun at once. The land was part of the large Newport Hospital tract.

More Money for Yale.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., April 1.—The State has given up the fight for the Marett fund, amounting to over $89,000. By the final terms the fund will be distributed as follows: Yale, $20,000; Connecticut State Hospital in New Haven, $20,000; New Haven city poor, $20,000; New Haven Orphan Asylum, $10,000; St. Francis Orphan Asylum, New Haven, $10,000, and New Haven City Library about $10,000. An order will be given Commissioner Henry T. Blake by the Probate Court to distribute the money at once.

Yale Divinity Commencement Speakers.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., April 1.—The following seniors of the Yale Divinity School have been decided upon as commencement speakers: Austin Rice, Danvers, Mass., "The Minister as a Patriot;" H. F. Ball, Des Moines, Ia., "The Theory of Evolution in its Bearing on the Doctrine of Sin," and S. Knapp, New York city, "The Portrayal of Religion in Current Fiction."

THREE ACTORS CRITICISED.

MISS NETHERSOLE, MR. CLEMENT, AND ONE WITHOUT A NAME.

An Emotional Achievement in "Camille," an Imitative Representation in "The New Dominion," and a Perturbed Performance with a Very Heavy Baby Carriage.

When Olga Nethersole played *Camille* in New York two years ago her performance was full of promise in nearly every respect, and in some of its achievements it was notably fine. But it was in the indication of future results that the actress accomplished most. For the sake of the power, the strongly dramatic temperament and the evident artistic intelligence the portrayal showed, the crudities and exaggeration were forgiven. There was reason to believe that they would disappear in the acquisition of a more finished technique. In that event her real natural gifts would probably have placed her among the few great ones of her profession.

For that reason it was not agreeable to her admirers to observe the course that her talents have taken. It was nearly impossible to believe that an experience of two years should have accomplished so little for her and, more than that, have exaggerated every quality that was formerly to be deplored in her acting. Last night Miss Nethersole showed that anything like a sense of artistic perfection was further than ever from her perception. Her voice has now become alternately nasal and guttural. The spontaneity of her acting has been superseded by a studied deliberation that exhausts itself in insignificant trivialities and ends in nothing. The power of her acting remaining but little effect is also impaired by this long-drawn-out treatment of irrelevant episodes. During the second act, for instance, she spent a considerable portion of the time cleaning her finger nails with what seemed to be a pair of scissors. The instrument may have been all right, although others are recommended, but the taste of the by-play was more questionable. Recognition must also be made of the delicate imagination which suggested the close of the first act. The bedroom of *Camille* was shown behind a portiere. As the curtain fell, the actress seated herself on the bed and called to her maid to undress her. The maid commenced, and luckily there were only two curtain calls. If there had been greater enthusiasm it is not possible to say what the spectators might have seen. There was not much spirit in the performance, although Nathaniel Hartwig was an impassioned and graceful *Armand*, who acted throughout with great earnestness and intelligence.

In his new play at the American, Clay Clement makes the belief inevitable that he has taken Richard Mansfield in "Prince Karl" as his model. Mr. Clement is broad, square shouldered, and smooth faced. His long black hair is combed back to his coat collar, and two red scars on his left cheek stand for cuts received in sword play at Heidelberg University. A blue cap and jacket of foreign shape lend character to his attire. In these points there is no reminder of the other actor, but his speech and deportment tell quite another story. There is the same trick of turning squarely around upon his heels to confront a speaker, the same tendency to look straight out into the theatre and voice the incontrovertible. In the use of eyeglasses Mansfield is recalled. In adjusting them, the head is held stiffly back, and, as they are placed upon the nose, the brows are drawn up with nervous emphasis. To point a growing anger at the insults of a drunken boor, the hand that holds a glass of beer first trembles so that a little of the liquid spills, then by a greater tremor the glass is almost half emptied, and finally two excited gestures dash the beer fully two feet above the table. This is "Karl" vengeance in "Prince Karl" to "A Parisian Romance," but the return to the other likeness is prompt, and is favored by the German dialect. In it the Clement and Mansfield burrs are identical, and the delivery is accompanied by similar mannerisms. In marking a name he would be impressive despite his unfamiliarity with the language he speaks, it is effective to close the eyes with the end of a phrase and to purse the lips for prunes and prisms, but these tricks will be readily traced to their source by any one who has seen "Prince Karl." Recognition will be equally prompt, too, for a gesture of confusion, coming with *Baron Hohenstauffen* when he is at a loss for a word, which brings the speaker's hand to his head, the fingers touching, not the brow, but the hair above the temples, as the hesitator probes his memory.

The variety actor's self-esteem takes him through many scenes in which a moment's relaxation from his exaggerated appreciation of himself would bring him to ridicule with a conclusive thud, and very seldom is a specialist seen to suffer from a lack of ease. But there is a man at Keith's who is disturbed in this way at the beginning of his slight contribution, although the nature of his share in the specialty by no means proves him lacking in self-confidence. He appears as an assistant to Louise Hamilton, and is obscured by the disheartening cloud of anonymousness. She is a highly vivacious vocalist, and is favored in her second selection by extinguished footlights, while she skips and twitters in the glorious ness of a limelight all to herself. For her concluding song she appears in a white garment that reaches from neck to heels, and her head is covered by a tight white cap. This attire suggests a night robe at first, but by the time she has reached the centre of the stage her actions have led her watchers to race themselves to bear up against a distinctly mature baby song. As soon as she has crossed the stage she squats upon it, and her face takes on an expression of infantile vacancy. This is the man's cue, and he enters pushing a baby carriage, his absorption in the last week's paper that he is reading not being sufficient to efface from his careworn look. This realistically beautiful picture of Brooklyn life is short. The five-foot baby sets up a piercing squall, and the parent-of-a-size-to-match wheels the carriage to her side and tries to soothe her. The sweet child's angry screams are redoubled and when the mother has taken away the apple she has been munching the father presents a nursing bottle. For a moment the cries are stilled as the remarkable infant drinks from the bottle, but they are renewed, and then she is lifted into the carriage. As she recline and howls, the man sings in tones whose trembling discloses his doubts. Wheeling his charge about involves lifting her at the turns, and that does not convince him that he is rivalling Booth. But by the time a recall is sounded, and ridiculous as the inning is it brings that surely, he is able to push the infant phenomenon straight across the stage in good order.

The dismissal of Henry E. Dixey from the company of "In Gayest Manhattan" for drunkenness on the stage was not rescinded by Manager McConnell yesterday, and the rôle taken from Mr. Dixey was given to Robert E. Graham.

It has been decided at the Lyceum to close the season with a week of "The First Gentleman of Europe." During the summer Miss Manning and Mr. Hackett will lead a company in "The Prisoner of Zenda" on a tour.

Frank Weston has spent the winter prospecting in the Rockies, and has returned to New York with the news that he found pay ore enough to warrant him in bidding adieu to the stage. Effie Elisler Weston will join him in this retirement.

Sydney Rosenfeld's extravaganza, which Klaw & Erlanger will produce at the Knickerbocker for the summer, will be called "A Round of Pleasure." Hugh Morton and Gustave Kerker's review, which George W. Lederer will bring out at the Casino, has been named "The Whirl of the Town."

John H. Woodbury says he will test a scheme for training vaudeville specialists and editing their sketches, so as to effect more artistic results than are now common. He asserts that he will conduct theatres here and elsewhere under that plan.

The doll with which Miss O'Hara won the first prize at the recent show wore a small copy of a gown which Annie Russell is to don in "The Mysterious Mr. Bugle."

It is said that Fitzsimmons, the pugilist, will be exhibited in vaudeville with his wife, who, as Rose Julian, was once a handsome and supple contortionist.

Minstrelsy has been slowly but steadily turning from black to white, and now Primrose & West say their company for next season will not be smutted with burnt cork at all, nor contain any genuine negroes.

Agnes Sorma, the German emotional actress; Gail Leno, the English character balladist, and Elsie Martens, a French singer, have arrived for débuts respectively at the Irving Place, the Olympia, and the Pleasure Palace.

CIRCUS'S BRILLIANT OPENING.

A Bulldog Makes a Brilliant Hit Playing Ball —Other Novelties at the Great Show.

At the brilliant performance which the big Barnum & Bailey circus gave to the thousands who thronged the Madison Square Garden last night a hit was made by a bulldog which will earn for this remarkable animal a star place on future programmes.

The bulldog is a pet of Clown Charley Cavan. His specialty is to play ball, and he played it in a way that took everybody's attention from three principal acts, and set the vast audience in a roar of laughter.

Clown Cavan tossed a rubber ball two feet in diameter into the arena and the bulldog dashed at it, and butted it high in the air. He kept it flying up and down in an indescribably comic way, all over the wide expanse of the arena. The bulldog's novel act was only one of countless good things in the long programme. A woman who rode upside down on a bicycle, which was fastened to a huge glistening star set in the roof of the arena, and held a man suspended on a swinging bar, was another surprise.

Mr. John O'Brien performed perfectly the very difficult task of controlling the graceful evolutions of seventy horses and ponies on a huge pedestal in the central ring. There were daring horizontal bar evolutions fifty feet from the ground; flying trapeze by the Dunhams and the Silbons; innumerable bareback feats by men and women athletes, and graceful and skilled manege acts of expert equestrianism. The show closed with the familiar and rousing hippodrome races and some unusually fine feats of high jumping by thoroughbreds.

The menagerie was on view with Johanna as the most interesting feature, and the nine-foot giantess, the twenty-three-inch midget, Peter the Small, the East Indian twins, and other notable curiosities were on exhibition. By a new arrangement the performance begins in the arena the moment the doors are opened.

JERSEY CITY WATER PROBLEM.

Mayor Wanser Vetoes the Award to the East Jersey Water Company.

Mayor Wanser of Jersey City has vetoed the resolution passed by the Board of Street and Water Commissioners on Dec. 4, 1896, and concurred in by the Board of Finance on Jan. 7, 1897, awarding to the East Jersey Water Company a contract for a permanent water supply. The veto message was filed with the clerk of the Board of Finance on Monday and presented to the Board of Finance when it met last night. The Mayor says in part:

"At the time when the bids were received it became apparent that the competing companies seemed to have construed the specifications differently as to the meaning of the clause regarding conduits, and the unsuccessful bidder even filed a protest against the interpretation of the clause referred to as shown in the proposal of the successful bidder. My investigation of the matter and the opinion of the counsel for the Water Company's case led me to the conclusion some time ago that this was sufficient to vitiate the award, for even if the unsuccessful bidder did not test the contract in the courts, the question would remain an open one and might eventually affect the city's ability to negotiate its bonds when it should decide to take advantage of the option to purchase the plant.

"The most important factor in causing me to delay action upon the resolution before me has been my desire to effect a settlement of the dispute between the city and this company as to the price for the temporary supply. The action recently taken by the company in bringing suit to recover judgment against the city at the contract prices for the water supplied during the past year virtually a notice to the city that they would not agree to the reduction asked for."

The East Jersey Water Company has officially notified the city that in all probability it will not be able to continue the temporary supply if a new furnishing from the Pequannock River after May 31, and in that case the city will be obliged to return to the Passaic River for its water supply until arrangements can be made to obtain a supply from some other source.

CHANGES AMONG M. E. PASTORS.

Some of Those That Will Probably Be Made at the Sing Sing Conference.

The New York Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church will open on Tuesday in the Highland Avenue Church in Sing Sing. Already some of the changes that will be made in the pastorates are known. The Rev. Ernest Lyon, for five years pastor of St. Mark's Church, a negro congregation in Fiftieth street, will be transferred to the John Wesley Church in Baltimore. The Rev. W. H. Brooks, a presiding elder in Delaware, will succeed him. Dr. A. B. Kendig, pastor of Calvary Church, has notified his congregation that he will resign. The Rev. Dr. F. M. North of the Church Extension Society and the Rev. Dr. W. A. Quayle of Kansas each declined invitations to the pulpit.

The Rev. Dr. Clark Wright of the Bedford Street Church will succeed the Rev. Dr. J. M. King at the Trinity Church. The Rev. G. P. Eckman, now at Morristown, will probably go to St. Paul's new chapel, at Eighty-sixth street and West End avenue. The Rev. E. L. Hoffecker of the Chelsea Church, this city, has asked to be sent to the country. The Rev. E. S. Tipple will probably go to St. James' Church, Brooklyn, from Grace Church, and will be succeeded by the Rev. P. M. Watters of Poughkeepsie. The Rev. Dr. E. J. Haynes of St. James's Church will devote his time to literature. The Rev. J. Y. Bates will leave Tuckahoe, where he has been five years. The Rev. F. M. Davenport will leave the First Church in Yonkers to go to Europe, and his congregation wants to get the Rev. Dr. Robert Forbes of Duluth, Minn.

Pastors must be appointed to succeed the late W. W. Alexander, formerly associate at the Central Methodist Church in this city, and the late C. H. McAnney at Mt. Kisco. An attempt will be made to consolidate the New York East Conference with the New York Conference. There is little prospect that the Conference will vote to admit women.

A MAN WHO GAVE FULL MEASURE.

Tribute to Sweeper John Higgins on the Records of the Dock Board.

Dock Superintendent E. S. Atwood reported to the Dock Commissioners yesterday the death on March 26 of John Higgins, a laborer employed by the department. Higgins was a sweeper along the lower East River front, and so conscientious and faithful in the performance of his duty that Mr. Atwood thought he deserved special mention. "He was invariably at his post ahead of time," he said, "and sometimes he got there as early as 5 o'clock in the morning. He was an elderly man, and although he did his work as thoroughly as a younger one, he always feared that he was not giving full value for his wages. He often brought his two grown sons to help him in his duties, although it was not necessary, and he knew perfectly well that there was no possible way of compensating them for their services. He was a marked instance of a faithful public servant, and it is with regret that I recommend that his name be taken from the rolls of the department."

RAN DOWN A WAGON AND A CHILD.

Wingler Ran Over the Child While Escaping from the First Accident.

George Wingler, the driver of a baker's wagon, who lives at 1339 Gates avenue, Williamsburgh, ran into a buggy driven by Dr. Charles Reaper of 535 Flushing avenue, yesterday, at Suydam street and Central avenue. The buggy was demolished and Dr. Reaper thrown out but not injured. After the collision Wingler whipped up his horse to get away. He had proceeded only a few yards when the horse knocked down four-year-old Henry Martin of 159 Suydam street. The wheel passed over the child's neck, inflicting what Dr. Dubieg of St. Catherine's Hospital said were probably fatal injuries.

Wingler again lashed his horse to escape, but he was stopped by two men who had witnessed the collision between Wingler's wagon and Dr. Reaper's buggy.

The injured child was carried home by a neighbor, and Wingler was arrested and locked up in the Hamburg avenue police station.

WHITE STAR'S OFFER DECLINED.

$166,960 Not Considered Enough Rental for Two New Piers.

The Dock Board declined yesterday the offer renewed by H. Maitland Kersey, agent of the White Star line, to pay $84,350 yearly rental for Pier 48 North River and $82,610 for Pier 49, when completed in accordance with the board's plans. The combined sum, $166,960, represents the line's proportion of 4½ per cent. on $8,000,000.

The denial of Mr. Kersey's application was on the understanding that the negotiations with the White Star line could be reopened at any time. Mr. Kersey wrote that he renewed his offer, which had been declined, because he understood that Commissioners Einstein and Monks had reconsidered their view of it.

MAYOR SNUBS WEST SIDERS.

Intimates When They Complain of Waring That They Seem to Want the Earth.

A number of west side property owners protested to Mayor Strong yesterday against the stable which Col. Waring proposes to build for the use of the Street Cleaning Department at Eighty-ninth street and Columbus avenue.

"I have no sympathy with you people," said the Mayor sharply. "You want your ashes drawn away oftener than they are in other parts of the city, and at the same time you want to make the Street Cleaning Department haul them further than is necessary in any other section of the town." The west siders went away crestfallen.

Towing Companies Consolidate.

The Beverwyck Towing Company and Ronan's Towing Line, engaged in towing between this city and Albany, have been purchased by the Consolidated Towing Company.

Scalchi Not to Sing in Vaudeville.

Mme. Scalchi's manager denies the reports that she is to sing in vaudeville.

GIVING THE CHARTER FITS.

THE MAYOR TOLD THAT IT IS A BLUNDERING, CRUDE, VICIOUS,

Extravagant, Unfair, Incomplete, Hasty, Horrible, Oppressive, Slaughterous, Absurd, Inarticulate, Barbaric Measure to Link Us with Bankrupt or Half-Civilized Territories.

Mayor Strong's first hearing on the charter draw a full house yesterday to the Aldermen's chamber. Opponents of the charter were to be heard first, and first of these was John E. Parsons on behalf of the Bar Association. He said, among other things:

"We believe that, owing to the shortness of time for its preparation, there must under the proposed charter, if it shall pass, be more or less inconvenience and confusion in the administration of the proposed greater city. There are no officers in existence competent to make a budget for the enlarged city, nor to lay a tax for its benefit in advance of its constitution. It has not been possible to avoid omissions, repetitions, and mistakes. This is not my language. It is the language of you, Mr. Mayor, and your associates of the commission. We believe that, owing to the shortness of time, the charter in essential points of the greatest importance is at fault. In particulars which are well known, it is constructed upon a wrong theory. This is the language of President Low and yourself. It is, therefore, with considerable confidence that we come to you, not as a member of the Charter Commission, charged possibly with the obligation of sinking your individual and public views to the end that the proposed charter might reach the Legislature, but as Mayor of the city, required by the Constitution as its Chief Magistrate to speak for the present city of New York, to urge that you will not give your sanction to a charter, the defects of which are so serious and so apparent."

George L. Rives said that the members of the Bar Association had no chance to see the charter until Feb. 24, and that up to that time they had no idea of its provisions. But when the association's committee did get hold of it, they were all impressed with the defects of the instrument, and all voted it one of the most imperfect pieces of legal workmanship ever wrought by the hand of man. They found it full of blunders and repetitions, and with all its bulk it did not cover the ground. "It seems almost incredible," he continued, "that the lawyers on the commission should have recommended the passage of a bill containing so many unconstitutional features."

Henry E. Howland, who also spoke for the Bar Association, said it was very remarkable that a great city like New York should be willing to give away so much of its rights as the new charter will compel it to give.

"I do not protest as a lawyer," he said, "because if adopted the charter will furnish business for the members of the Bar Association for years to come. This instrument is crude and in many ways vicious. It is also full of errors and inconsistencies, and it should never be jammed through on the plea of necessary haste."

Wheeler H. Peckham said that under the charter there would be no relief from the great evil of legislative interference. "In reality," he said, "nothing has been done except to run a ring around a certain territory and designate its general officers."

Simon Sterne said that the proposition contained in the enacting clause of the charter should be delayed until 1900.

Horace E. Deming defied the Mayor or any of his audience to find a single non-political organization of any standing in the community which was not opposed to the charter as it stands. "No competent person," he continued, "who has studied the charter has arisen from the examination without indignation and horror. Are we Cretans, to have thrust upon us any kind of government at the instance of a certain concert of powers? We do not object to consolidation, but we do object to oppression. Give us the opportunity to act like intelligent men, not to be driven like dumb cattle into the slaughter pen. Delay will harm no one, but it will afford us the opportunity of revealing more clearly the absurdities of this bulky, inarticulate, and barbaric measure."

John M. Bowers said that no greater act of political folly could be committed than to turn the city over bound hand and foot to a system of bad laws.

William R. Grace was too ill to be present, and his speech was read by Alfred E. Marling, President of the Real Estate Exchange.

Mr. Grace said that as a taxpayer of this city he was utterly opposed to bringing into one municipality such an enormous territory, almost entirely unprepared and to some extent unfit to be linked with the present development.

"I cannot see any possible advantage to New York," the speech continued, "in annexing the county of Richmond, which is entirely unprepared in itself for such advancement, and which is separated from us by miles of water. That part of Queens county which it is proposed to annex to the city of New York, is also, in my opinion, entirely unprepared for such advancement, and will suffer very heavily from cost of local improvements. It is unnecessary to say that that portion of Queens county which is known as Long Island City is in every way undesirable as a part of the future city of New York. The city of Brooklyn, far behind us in everything going to make up a great city, is separated from us by a great river, impossible of being bridged except at enormous expense and great obstruction to commerce. It is calculated by experts that the adoption of this charter will add to the taxation of the present city of New York six millions of dollars a year. I believe that it is only sentimentality which has induced so many New Yorkers to advocate the union of the cities, in order that the Greater New York might become the second largest city in the civilized world. I confess that I have no sympathy or sentiment in that direction."

Mr. Marling himself spoke for the Real Estate Exchange. His principal objection was to section 899 of the charter, providing for the relation between the valuation of property in each borough and throughout the greater city.

Col. Rogers of the Union League Club compared the tax rate and the assessed value of property in New York and Brooklyn, and said that the expenditure of this city would be increased $6,000,000 a year, while the expenditure of Brooklyn would be decreased by a similar amount. He referred to Brooklyn as a substantially bankrupt city, and said that it would cost more than $10,000,000 to put its street alone in proper condition. Its sewerage system, he said, was in a deplorable condition and its water supply inadequate. He declared that it would be positively immoral to subject New York to the enormous increase of expenditures attendant on consolidation under the new charter.

After ex-Assemblyman John Connelly and Moses Ottinger had spoken in opposition the Mayor adjourned the hearing until this afternoon.

MUST HAVE SPRING ELECTIONS.

The New Cities Election Law of New Jersey Unconstitutional.

TRENTON, N. J., April 1.—Justices Gummere and Garrison of the Supreme Court this afternoon filed separate opinions in the Jersey City and Newark Elections law contest. Both reach the conclusion that the law passed two weeks ago by the Legislature combining the municipal, State, and county elections in cities of the first class is unconstitutional. A peremptory mandamus is ordered directing City Clerk Michael J. O'Donnell of Jersey City to issue ballots to Edward Hoos, the Democratic nominee for Mayor, and prepare to hold the municipal election on April 13.

The passage of the law was procured by the Republican leaders of Hudson and Essex counties, despite the protests of Republican Senators and Assemblymen that it was special legislation and would be declared unconstitutional.

The case is to be appealed to the Court of Errors and Appeals, and Charles L. Corbin, who represented the Republican side, said he had the promise of the Chancellor and a majority of the Judges of that court that they would meet in special session on Monday next in view of the urgency of the case.

Newspaper Consolidation.

The *Morning Advertiser* and the morning edition of the *Journal* were consolidated yesterday. The newspaper thus formed is to be called the *Journal and Advertiser*. The first number appears this morning. The *Morning Advertiser* was owned by the Star Printing Company, of which, until yesterday, William Shillaber was President. Immediately upon the sale of the concern to the *Journal* the officers resigned, and their places were filled by persons connected with the interests of the Hearst estate.

Mrs. Charles Astor Bristed Ill.

Mrs. Charles Astor Bristed, wife of the Wall street lawyer, is seriously ill at the Hotel Bristol, Fifth avenue and Forty-second street. She gave birth to a daughter in the middle of March, and since that time Mrs. Bristed has been very ill. The family returned to town from their former home at Livingston, S. I., about two months ago.

Schooner Sallie J. Hastings Not Lost.

PORT JEFFERSON, L. I., April 1.—The schooner Sallie J. Hastings, reported lost in Long Island Sound with all on board, was in this port until Tuesday morning, having sought shelter here during a storm. The schooner left here on Tuesday and should arrive at Orient to-morrow. All hands were well when here, and will be surprised to learn that they had been given up as lost.

LIVE TOPICS ABOUT TOWN.

There used to be a man in New York who, with some right to claim the privilege of free admission to theatres, pestered managers for seats so regularly and persistently that nobody could guess for a long time what he could do with them all. His willingness to take seats of any kind at any theatre led after a while to the report that he ate them, and his application was always received with some pleasant question about the condition of his appetite. When a box was not available he was satisfied with the gallery, and whether the tickets were for matinee or evening performance troubled him not. As long as they were tickets, he took them willingly. But a recent advertisement in a newspaper has suggested the suspicion that these tickets may have been put to a practical use. Last week this notice was published: "A gentleman desires a good room, and will pay for same in theatre tickets. Address ——." Such an arrangement had never before gained equal publicity, and it suggested the abundant tide of free tickets that must flow in certain directions. The force of the signs "Free List Suspended" was never enough to frighten anybody who went to a theatre with the idea of getting in free. It is probable that the man who put that advertisement in the newspaper received his tickets for certain privileges which he granted and these were doubtless the customary advertising privileges which are paid for in tickets. Theatre managers have never been able to agree on any plan by which this arrangement could be changed, and it is the custom of distributing tickets which supports the billboard ticket shops all over the city. Now a weekly newspaper suggests that the Legislature pass a law forbidding the sale of tickets at a cost below or above the regular price announced. This would protect the public from the speculators and the managers from the cheap ticket schemes. But it is fair to say that, although the managers cannot agree to rid themselves of the plan of paying for advertising with tickets, they would be even more reluctant to adopt any measure that would eliminate the speculator. In some form or another, he is a figure with which the theatre-going public will always have to deal.

The Tree Planting Association of this city, which was formed about a year ago, has issued a novel leaflet to its members that illustrates better than words its objects. One page shows a half-tone photo-engraving of 128th street, west of Fifth avenue. It looks more like a view of a country village than a New York street. Large trees in front of nearly every house shade the street and relieve the monotony of city architecture. On the opposite page is a picture of a typical city street without trees. The contrast is striking, and it speaks for itself from an artistic standpoint in favor of the association's work. There are many householders in New York, however, who wouldn't have trees in front of their houses under any circumstances. Even the twining vines that make several houses on Madison avenue objects of beauty during the summer have their attendant penalties.

No court in New York discloses more family skeletons than that of the Surrogate, and it has its own little class of court loungers who sit around idly, day after day, waiting for something interesting to turn up. Just now the famous King will case has shifted its interest from Rhode Island to New York, and it is stated that interesting revelations are to be made. This case involves millions. The idlers who spend their time in the Surrogate's Court are a class by themselves. Each of the criminal courts has its regular attendants who can be counted on to turn up whenever there is a case on that is reported in the newspapers. They go to listen to details that are unfit for publication,