STORM, AFTER CROKER'S GONE?

MUTTERINGS ON THE HORIZON THREATEN NIXON.

While He Sets Traps for Young Men, Older Men Are Hinting at Revolt—Series of Farewell Dinners to Croker, Who Thinks Nixon's Doing Very Well.

Lewis Nixon was at Tammany Hall bright and early yesterday setting traps to catch young men. Mr. Nixon is working so hard at this that it will soon be dangerous for any young man to pass the Tammany headquarters in any of the Assembly districts without a bodyguard. Mr. Nixon is liming twigs all over town on which the young and politically inexperienced are expected to step and be caught. Mr. Nixon has traps at all the principal corners of the town, and if any young man disappears from his home it will be known that the new man who sits in the boss's chair at Tammany has got him. Young men are not safe from Mr. Nixon at any time or in any place, and the hunt for them is growing fiercer every day. Mr. Nixon says that the young men want to have him catch them, and that the only reason they have not been caught before is that no one in Tammany Hall made any effort to get at them. Mr. Nixon apparently does not think much of the efforts that Mr. Croker made in 1900 to get the Absaloms into his organization, but, of course, he does not say this.

"All men who want to join Tammany Hall must be made welcome," said Mr. Nixon yesterday. "There have been complaints in the past that some of the district leaders and their lieutenants did not make any effort to get the young men into their clubs. Our effort from this time is to get the people back with us, to have them coöperate with us in building up the machine. There are men who have not been careful in their utterances, and when they have said something that was indiscreet it has been harbored up against them and remembered. Now we are starting afresh with a clean slate. All of the old scores are to be wiped out, and we want all the members of the party to come in and join with us in building it up in the city and the county.

"Here are a number of letters that I have received from young men who are anxious to become members of the organization, and all of them are to be attended to by the leaders of the districts in which the young men live. All that it will be necessary for any man who wants to join the organization to do will be to write here and we will see to it that an enrollment blank is furnished to him and that he has a hearty welcome."

One new feature of the organization work that Mr. Nixon will make important will be a regular meeting of the general committee on the second Thursday of every month, its next meeting being Feb. 13. Some one said that this was an unlucky date. Mr. Nixon said that he did not think so, for it was the date that he left the naval service, and the date on which he took hold of Tammany Hall.

So many Democrats have become accustomed to going to to Democratic Club or to some other place to transact their political business that Mr. Nixon found it necessary yesterday to issue another statement to the effect that he would attend to political business at Tammany Hall and nowhere else.

Mr. Nixon has been informed by some of his friends lately that there is going to be a big row in Tammany Hall as soon as the ship on which Richard Croker sails to England clears the Hook. These men have told their friends that they will not obey Mr. Nixon and that they will teach him a thing or two as soon as his protector gets out of the country. They do not make any bones of their intention and they do not qualify what they say.

"We will not obey him; that is the long and the short of it," these men say. "He is not one of us and he cannot come in here and rule us. He is not a politician, but a business man. He does not care for us and we have no love for him. We will defy him as soon as the old man is out of the way. We are going to lose everything at the primaries anyway and we might as well have as much fun as we can between then and now."

Mr. Croker becomes more emphatic every day in his declaration that he is out for good. He is going to sail for England some time in February, according to his friends, and the date mentioned yesterday was the 20th or thereabouts. There are to be several dinners to him at the Club. One of these dinners will be given on Jan. 21 by Capt. Louis Wendel of the First Battery, to the members of his honorary staff of whom Mr. Croker is one. An official dinner in his honor will be given later by the officers of the Club. Another dinner that is talked of is one that some of the district leaders think they ought to give. This kind of a dinner would please Mr. Croker more than anything else that the members of the party could do in his honor. He wants to think that the members of the Executive Committee who got their places by the votes of the enrolled Democrats want to honor him, and some of his friends think that they can get up such a dinner, though many of the leaders say that they won't contribute. If it came down to a pinch and the order went forth that they should give a dinner to Mr. Croker, they would undoubtedly pony up, however, for all of them are much afraid of him, with one or two exceptions. Mr. Croker was at the Democratic Club yesterday morning, and he asked what he could say that would interest the newspapers.

"You can tell us what you think of the way Mr. Nixon is doing things at Tammany Hall," said one of the men whom he addressed.

"What would he accomplished if I were to say anything now?" he said. "Nixon is the leader. I think that he has done well, but I am only a private citizen now, and the public is not interested in anything that I might say. Let me tell you something that is, that I am out of politics. I am out of politics for good. I will never be in politics again. That is all there is to that. I do not care what my enemies may say, they would not believe me, no matter what I should say, but I am out of politics and that is all there is to it. I approve of Mr. Nixon's efforts to get young men into the organization, of course. I do. I always did that when I was the leader. That is a movement that we began some time ago. But my opinion is of no use to you, you ought to go and ask Nixon about these things, he is the man to ask about them. Now, you couldn't ask me any more questions, for I am out of politics and what ever answer I might give to them would not be of any interest to the public. I won't tell you when I am going away, that is a matter that the public has no interest in any more. I am out, I tell you and that is all there is to it. I will have nothing more to say about these political matters."

For some time there has been a report that as soon as Mr. Croker gets on the ocean the Nixon regime will proceed to unkennel contents to the tender New York dogs, and the other elements of the party that have been opposed to Mr. Croker during the last few years and who took the field against Democrats with Mr. Nixon at their head. Mr. Nixon, it is said, has had several talks with the minor leaders of some of the factions, in which he has endeavored to convince them that they are making a mistake in fighting Tammany Hall, now that it has promised to be good. Within a short time after Mr. Croker sails Mr. Nixon, according to his friends, is going to make a harmony appeal to all hands who are Democrats to come together and stay under the Tammany umbrella and see him be good. Mr. Nixon thinks that he can sing as sweet a song that all the other Democrats will hasten to hear him. While he is learning the words of the song an earthquake is preparing to throw him into the mud.

BANK DIRECTORS RUINED.

Court Holds Them Liable for Stealings of Cashier Valentine.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., Jan. 15.—Vice-Chancellor Pitney handed down a decision yesterday afternoon holding the President and directors of the Middlesex County Bank of Perth Amboy liable for the losses of that institution, amounting to about $219,000, through the defalcation of George M. Valentine, the cashier. This decision closes a litigation which has dragged through the New Jersey courts for nearly two years and a half. Valentine absconded in July, 1899. The bank was wrecked and it was charged that ordinary business prudence had not been exercised by the President and the directors. Valentine gave himself up in the same July and got a six years' sentence.

The directors of the bank held a meeting last week and presented a proposition to Receiver E. S. Campbell to be submitted by him to Vice-Chancellor Pitney. This proposition, it is understood, was that the directors be fined and not held responsible for the losses. The Vice-Chancellor rejected the proposition. Ten days are given the officers for settlement. The directors are Uriah B. Watson, Patrick J. Convery, Dr. J. W. Wilson, J. T. Watson and Robert N. Valentine. Uriah B. Watson is President. Most of them will be ruined by the judgment.

CITY RECORD GRAFT.

More "Special" Orders Last Year Than Contract Orders—Cooked Specifications.

Charles S. Hervey, one of the expert accountants of the Finance Department, who has been investigating the methods followed in the office of the *City Record* in the last administration in awarding printing and stationery contracts, reported to Comptroller Grout yesterday.

Mr. Hervey found that large quantities of supplies for the departments were obtained without public letting and by means of what were known as "special orders." Many of these orders were made "special" without the knowledge of the heads of departments. Mr. Hervey discovered that while the work done under contract last year amounted to $215,821, the "special orders" came to $231,284. These orders went almost entirely to firms known favored by Tammany, and included the Martin B. Brown Company, the J. W. Pratt Company and L. W. Ahrens & Co.

It was ascertained by Mr. Hervey that as far as the stationery contracts were concerned large proportions of samples were incorrectly stamped as to weight and quality, thus precluding free competition in the bidding. Mr. Hervey states further: In other contracts there were many instances of discrimination against certain manufacturers and corresponding preferences shown to other manufacturers. In a large number of cases, the name in the requisition of the manufacturer of the goods asked for, had been erased and that of another manufacturer substituted.

NEW FIRE MARSHAL NAMED.

Capt. Thomas F. Freel Appointed—He Held the Same Job in the Last Reform Days.

Fire Commissioner Sturgis appointed Capt. Thomas F. Freel of Engine 8 Fire Marshal of the boroughs of Manhattan, The Bronx and Richmond yesterday. Capt. Freel takes the place of Peter Seery who has been Fire Marshal for four years under the Scannell administration. Mr. Seery contends that under the new Charter he has become a memebr of the uniformed force and cannot be removed.

The new Fire Marshal is one of the best known officers of the fire force. While assigned to the Fire Marshal's Bureau frm 1892 to 1895 he was responsible for the breaking up of several gangs of firebugs. He was made a fireman in 1881. During his service in the Fire Marshal's Bureau twenty-seven persons were prosecuted for arson and twenty-two were convicted.

While a member of the Fire Board in 1897 Mr. Sturgis recognized Freel's ability by assigning him as acting superintendent of buildings under the department. During the first weeks of consolidation he was assigned by Chief Bonner to instruct the fire force of Brooklyn and Queens in the methods of the New York department.

I'LL REMOVE YOU, SAYS LOW,

If You Don't Finish Up That $3,000 a Year Change of Grade Job by May 1.

Mayor Low informed the members of the Change of Grade Commission yesterday that unless they finished their work by May 1 he would remove them. The commission was created by the Legislature in 1893 to fix the damages to be paid by the city for certain changes of street grades. It was expected that the work would be done in two years, but eight years have passed and it is still unfinished. The present Commissioners are W. E. Stillings, Charles A. Jackson and Oscar S. Bailey, all Tammany men. They get $3,000 a year each.

WHERE TAMMANY COST MILLIONS

Not in Raising Salaries, but in Wasteful Contracts and "Special Help."

Comptroller Grout said yesterday that he had been in charge of the Finance Department long enough to learn that the best public economy would be to look carefully after contracts and into the tendency to hire "special help," rather than to reduce regular salaries and remove officials.

"In the four years of the last administration," he added, "the amount added to the annual expenditures because of salaries increases and the creation of new places was not more than $600,000; but the amount used wastefully and without any warrant on contracts and for special help was between three and four millions."

Mayor Low to Have Cabinet Meetings.

It was announced yesterday by Mayor Low that he would resume the custom he established when Mayor of Brooklyn of holding weekly conferences with the heads of his department. The first meeting of the cabinet, as it will be called, will be held on Saturday next at 1:30 P. M.

Probasco in Charge of Bridge Workshops.

Bridge Commissioner Lindenthal has got Samuel R. Probasco, formerly chief engineer of the department, in charge of the workshops.

Plans for the New P. S. 4 Unknown.

Plans were filed with Building Superintendent Stewart yesterday by Parish & Schroeder, architects, for the new eight and three-story clubhouse, hall and gymnasium to be built for the Young Men's Christian Association at 341-349 West Twenty-third street and 346-352 West Twenty-fourth street which is to cost $[illegible].

THE SUNNY SOUTHLAND Florida is the summerland of winter, and its tropical delights are becoming more alluring every year. A winter is void without a trip to this balmy clime. The Pennsylvania Railroad Personally Conducted Tours to Florida, which leave New York by special Pullman trains on February 4 and 18 and March 4, bring it near to the people of the North. Round-trip rate, $50. Apply to Tourist Agent, 1196 Broadway, New York.

LOW TOLD ALDERMEN NAUGHT

BRIBERY RUMOR DROPPED—PARSONS BEATS GOODMAN.

Committees Named—Rules Say 10-Minute Speeches—No Second Chance—"You Ain't Got No Right to Stop Me Talking," Shouts Bridges—All Sit on Him.

The Board of Aldermen met yesterday with full galleries and with policemen to keep everybody but Aldermen and reporters off the floor. In answer to the request sent to the Mayor at Little Tim Sullivan's instance for the evidence on which he based a public statement touching rumors of attempted bribery of fusion Aldermen to help Tammany organize the board, Mayor Low sent this message:

Referring to your preamble and resolution of Jan. 6, 1902, in which you ask the Mayor for certain information, I desire to point out that the preamble upon which the resolution is based rests upon a misapprehension. The preamble recites that "Whereas it has appeared in the public press of this city on information given to the said press of this city by his Honor the Mayor that an attempt has been made to illegally influence certain members of this board," be it resolved, &c., &c. My statement to the press, to which reference is made, fails to sustain the preamble in a vital particular. I characterized what I had heard, not as a fact but as a rumor, and the nature of the rumor was given in the statement itself. I cannot see that any public interest will be furthered by an inquiry into the basis of a rumor that involves the good name of no member of the board. Neither does it seem to me that the good name of the board itself has been injured by calling attention to a rumor so general in its terms. Under these circumstances I submit that there is nothing further to be communicated. Respectfully,

SETH LOW, Mayor.

When this news was read Mr. Sullivan started in to discuss it. He had got as far as intimating that the Mayor was seemingly trying to shirk his responsibility when the President ruled him out of order. Thereupon Alderman Sullivan shouted:

"Then I move that the Mayor's letter be laid under the table."

Borough President Cantor asked the Alderman to withdraw the remark. He did so and the incident ended.

Herbert Parsons, chairman of the Finance Committee, was one of the announcements made by President Fornes. Alderman Goodman was a rival candidate. The other members of the committee are McInnes, Florence, Longfellow and James, fusion, and Bell, McCall, Nehrbauer and Sullivan, Democrats. The list of chairmen of other committees will be found below. Each committee has a fusion majority of 1.

Alderman Bridges got only one place—on the Committee of Public Education. When his name was read there was some merriment and he jumped up and said:

"I decline to sit on that committee. I ain't goin' to serve on no Committee of Public Education."

Alderman Willett of Queens, who drew the privilege of naming the Sergeant-at-Arms, announced that he had selected Theodore P. Wilsnack, President of the Richmond Hill Republican Club. The salary is $1,500.

Chairman James of the Committee on Rules reported proposed rules and the clerk began to read them. Alderman Bridges moved that they be laid over for a week and printed. Mr. Bridges was ruled out of order. He disputed the ruling and was sharply ordered to take his seat.

He had not been used to so summary treatment in the old board and he sat down an inch a minute with a thoughtful expression. A few minutes later he was up again on his feet and began to talk, although the Chair had not recognized him.

"The Alderman will be in order," President Fornes said, "and I want it understood that I am not going to permit a repetition of the scenes of the last meeting. We have rules to guide us and they will be adhered to."

The rules relating to the appointment of committees, the powers of the President and the seating of members were passed. The rest were put over for a week. The most important changes in the procedure of the board provided are that no member shall speak twice on one subject and that no speech shall be more than ten minutes long.

Alderman Bridges, in opposing immediate action on the rules, said vehemently:

"If there ain't nothin' wrong in these rules, why do you want to jam 'em through? I want a chance to scrutilize this document before voting on it. If you want to jam it through, there must be somethin' wrong with these rules. P'raps they'll tie up the work of this board for two years to come. I think the majority ought to give us the same fair treatment as we gave you when you was the minority. When we was in power we always treated you right and you ought to do the same by us now. If you do anythin' wrong to us, you mark my words, we'll make it hot for you two years from now and you'll be sorry for it."

A request from Commissioner Dougherty of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, for authority to appoint a Deputy Commissioner for Queens and Brooklyn at $5,000, a deputy for Bronx at $4,000 and a deputy for Richmond at $3,000, was referred to the committees on Water Supply, Affairs of Boroughs and Salaries and Offices.

A resolution concurring in the action of the Board of Estimate in authorizing the issue of $184,160 bonds for the Street Cleaning Department was introduced. Alderman McCall opposed it. Alderman McInnes said the present Commissioner, unlike the last, had promised to make no purchases except from competitive bidders. This matter was referred to the Finance Committee.

Several Tammany members objected to sitting on the southern side of the house. Alderman Bridges tried to speak twice and the rules hit him. A few minutes later Alderman McInnes, who had also once discussed the subject, spoke a second time, in support of a substitute motion which he had offered. The President accepted the motion, whereupon Bridges jumped up and pointing his finger at the Chair shouted:

"I thought you said you wasn't goin' to let any one speak twice! How is it that——"

"I object to a reflection of that kind being made upon the intelligence of the chair," interrupted Mr. McInnes.

Mr. Bridges attempted to continue, but President Fornes stopped him. "Will you be seated?" he said with some asperity. "The rules of this board will be obeyed while I am in the chair."

Although some of those seated Bridges attempted to persuade him to sit down to shook them off and shouted at the top of his voice:

"I have been elected by my constituents to the board and you ain't got no right to stop me talking. I insist on speaking even if there is no policemen in the house."

The President appealed to the board and a motion that he be heard by unanimous consent was adopted, Bridges was not heard from again. He was in a state.

The next meeting of the board will be held Wednesday at 2 P. M. The proposed rule providing for fortnightly meetings has not yet been adopted.

The committee chairmen, besides Parsons, are:

[illegible]

CHARLES FORSHEE, GO HOME!

Mother Nearing the End of Her Life and She Would Like to See Her Son.

Mrs. S. Forshee of 326 West Third street, Cincinnati, has written to the police asking for information of her son, Charles. She hasn't seen him in eleven years. The last she heard of him was two years ago when he was a waiter on the steamer St. Louis.

"I am nearing the end of life's journey," she adds, "and would like to see him before I die."

WILL HURT SALVATION ARMY.

Ballington Booth Confirms Withdrawal of Booth-Clibborns From Movement.

Ballington Booth, the head of the American Volunteers, which organization was the result of radical differences of opinion between him and his father, Gen. William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, said yesterday that it was quite true that his sister, Mrs. Catherine Booth-Clibborn, and her husband had withdrawn from the Salvation Army movement.

"My sister Catherine," said Gen. Booth, "is the only one of the family who has corresponded with me of late years. From her I have heard quite frequently. I received a cablegram from her this morning in which she said positively that she and her husband, Booth-Clibborn, had severed all connection with the Salvation Army. She said nothing, however, about their having joined the Dowie Zion movement and I have yet to be convinced that the statement to that effect is true.

"Booth-Clibborn is a Quaker and I have known for some time that he and my sister had faith in the Divine interposition in illness. This, however, does not by any means signify that they believed in the Dowie movement. Nor do I think that the fact that they may have written the letter published in the *Leaves of Healing* necessarily means that they, or that my sister's husband alone, mean to join the Dowie movement. Many people believe in Divine interposition in sickness. You may believe in it or I may believe in it, and yet that would not imply that we sympathized with the Dowie movement.

"I cannot see how the withdrawal of Mr. and Mrs. Booth-Clibborn can do otherwise than seriously affect the Salvation Army. My sister Catherine was at the head of the army in Holland, France and Switzerland. Since the times of the persecutions of the Salvation Army in those countries both my sister and her husband have made many warm friends there and have made a strong organization which is very largely identified with their personalities. Their withdrawal necessarily must be a crippling blow. The ill effect will hardly be confined to the Continent either. Mr. and Mrs. Booth-Clibborn have a large following in England, and in Ireland Booth-Clibborn, who comes of a very influential Quaker family, has many warm friends."

SICK MAN, FLED IN NIGHTSHIRT.

Says His Wife and Her Brother Bound and Gagged Him and Stripped His House.

Herman Gerbaulet of Huguenot, Staten Island, charged in Magistrate Marsh's court at Stapleton yesterday afternoon that his home was invaded by his wife Lena and her brother, Benito A. Lambert, on Saturday last, while he was ill in bed, that they bound and gagged him, loaded all his household effects and personal property, including his wearing apparel, into vans, which they sent to Manhattan, and that he escaped and fled through the snow in bare feet and clad only in a nightshirt, to Ohlrogge's hotel, a quarter of a mile away. His story was emphatically denied by Mrs. Gerbaulet and Lambert, but the latter, whom Gerbaulet charges with assault, was held by the Magistrate for trial.

Gerbaulet, his wife and six children, have lived on Staten Island for ten years. In summer Gerbaulet makes and sells ice cream, but has little or no income in winter. Last November Mrs. Gerbaulet had her husband arrested for non-support, but their differences were bridged over and they lived together until Dec. 31, when she alleges that her husband drove her and the children from the house with a carving knife. She and the children went to her old home in Manhattan, where she has several brothers, prosperous business men.

On Friday last she heard that her husband was ill and uncared for in the house, and it was decided to bring the sick man and the furniture to Manhattan, where the family were to be installed in a flat and cared for until Gerbaulet recovered. When Mrs. Gerbaulet and Lambert reached the Huguenot house with the vans the sick man refused to consent to the arrangement. Gerbaulet testified that when he objected to the removal of the property Lambert held him in the bed while his wife tied his wrists with a rope, and that when he called for help she tied a towel over his mouth. In the struggle the bed was broken down and a pane of glass was broken in the window.

Peter Pearsall and Louis Schroeder, residents of Huguenot, testified that Gerbaulet had called to them from his bedroom window to get a policeman, and Mrs. Ohlrogge testified to the condition in which Gerbaulet reached the hotel. Lambert, who gave his residence as 968 St. Nicholas avenue, Manhattan, and has the appearance of a prosperous business man, admitted that he remained with the sick man while his sister superintended the loading of the vans and tried to quiet him, making liberal offers of assistance. He declared that he and his brothers had practically supported the family for several years.

WRECKED THE SAFE TOO LATE.

Robbers Tried to Get $10,000 of Railroad Wages and Failed.

PITTSBURG, Jan. 15.—Safe breakers wrecked the temporary quarters of the First National Bank, of Pitcairn, Pa., with nitroglycerine at 3 o'clock this morning and failed to get the money they were after. The Pennsylvania Railroad yards of the Pittsburg division, are at Pitcairn, and the First National Bank acts as the company's paymaster. Between Monday morning and last night railroaders drew more than $10,000 from the bank. The safe blowers were evidently after this money. The officers of the bank were prepared to move today to a new brick building at the corner of Centre and Second streets. Pay day was advanced twenty-four hours for their accommodation.

Chicago Has the Right to Fix Price of Gas.

CHICAGO, Jan. 15.—Judge F. S. Grosscup, sitting in the Federal Court, this morning handed down a decision denying an injunction to the Peoples Gas Company, asked for to restrain the city of Chicago from enforcing an ordinance putting the price of gas at 75 cents a thousand feet. Judge Grosscup held that the city had a right to set and enforce rates for gas, provided that they were reasonable rates.

R·I·PANS

I have been using Ripans Tabules for over three years. Before using them I was much constipated, but by taking them regularly I was greatly relieved and benefited. I am over sixty years of age.

At druggists.
The Five-Cent packet is enough for an ordinary occasion. The family bottle, 60 cents, contains a supply for a year.

WANT SAY IN SCHOOL AFFAIRS

ALUMNI OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ASK RECOGNITION.

These Old Pupils Believe That if They Had Representation on the School Board It Would Improve the System—They Are to Take Steps to Secure It.

The Graduates' Dinner Club of Public School 77, which is the alumni association of the school, is making determined efforts to bring about an organization of all the alumni of the New York public schools. The object of the organization will be to obtain for the alumni some substantial representation on the School Board and thus to have a direct voice in the management of the city's schools.

In the circular which is now being sent out to all the principals of male schools in the city, the following topics for the consideration of the principals of the schools were made:

(1) The wisdom of the formation of an alumni association in each school; (2) The advisability of the organization of a general alumni society composed of an alumnus of each school; (3) The expediency of the meeting of this general body at an annual banquet; this assembly representing the interests of all the public schools of this city, to discuss the improvement, extension and advancement of public education in New York city.

The circular was sent out to ask the coöperation of the principals in forming alumni associations in the different schools. Many of the older schools have flourishing alumni associations already and it is the object of the promoters of the plan to incorporate these associations in the general body, or at any rate to have them represented there.

Alfred Yankauer, a lawyer of 31 Nassau street and a member of the School 77 organization, said yesterday that the men interested in the forming of the general alumni association had no idea that the association would be strong enough to exert any influence in school affairs for several years. The organization "must necessarily, he said, be a matter of slow growth; nor was it the desire of the promoters of the organization to attempt to control the school system.

"We merely feel," said Mr. Yankauer, "that when so many appointments to be teachers and principals have been made of late years among men who have no direct connection with New York city or New York city interests, we, who have been through the schools and have direct knowledge of their faults and advantages, ought to exert some suggestive influence at any rate to head off the experimental fads which some of the outsiders and some of our home theorists insist on clogging the schools with.

"Our principals find themselves subjected to constant changes of method in following the whims of new Commissioners; perhaps by being represented as men who have been through the schools we can exert the influence of a balance wheel on the experimental Commissioner. At any rate it will do the schools no harm to have a large body of citizens actively and directly interested in their management."

The annual banquet of the Graduates' Dinner Club of School 77 will be held at the Marlborough Hotel on Feb. 1. Edward A. Page, the principal of the school, who suggested at last year's banquet the plan which is now being put forward, will be present, and he and others are expected to discuss the plan at length.

SAYS MILLER WAS TO FLEE.

Dist. Atty. Clarke Declares Bail Was Ready When Court of Appeals Nipped Plot.

District Attorney Clarke of Brooklyn is gratified over the decision of the Court of Appeals upholding the conviction of William F. Miller, chief of the Franklin Syndicate, who will be sent back to Sing Sing to finish his ten-years' sentence. Mr. Clarke is confident that if there had been even a few days' further delay by the Court of Appeals Miller would have been at large and a fugitive from justice plans having been made, he says, to raise the $74,000 bail fixed for his release. Says Mr. Clarke:

They were going to come here to-day and offer bail in the sum of $74,000. They had parties all ready who were absolutely indemnified against loss and Miller was to be gotten away at once. Col. Ammon told Referee Tilney yesterday that Miller would be free to-day and that he had secured bail. Col. Ammon did not expect a decision from the Court of Appeals for a week or two. In fact, neither did I, but I was so sure that my contention would be upheld that I would have fought every effort to get Miller out of Raymond Street Jail with tooth and nail. If Miller had secured his liberty by being released on bail he would have flown the country and gone to Japan or some other country where he could not be reached.

The decision of the Court of Appeals sounds the death knell of all swindling get-rich-quick concerns. It settles once for all the manner in which their promoters may be indicted. The subscribers to such a concern as Miller's voluntarily parted with their money. It was clearly a larceny by trick and device and I am glad that the Court of Appeals has settled for all time the questions involved. We now have a sure and swift method of reaching these swindling concerns and New York will be an unhealthy place for them.

MISS AIRD SUES AGAIN.

Verdict Was $50 Damages in Her First Breach-of-Promise Suit.

The $25,000 breach-of-promise suit brought by Miss Elizabeth Aird of 332 First street, Jersey City, against Martin Daly, a retired grocer living at First and Monmouth streets, was tried yesterday for the second time in the Hudson county Circuit Court. The first trial resulted in a verdict of $50 damages against Daly. Miss Aird was not satisfied with the amount and on motion of Alexander Simpson, her lawyer, Judge Nevins set the verdict aside.

Miss Aird, who is 36 years old and rather good looking, testified that Daly, who is twenty-two years her senior, started to make love to her soon after their first meeting, on March 2, 1901. He invited her to go to places of public amusement with him, she said, but she refused until he declared his intentions, whereupon he assured her that they were perfectly honorable. Soon afterwards he proposed marriage, she said, and she accepted. Then he jilted her, according to the witness, and circulated a story in explanation of his conduct that she wasn't a proper person to take his dead wife's place.

Daly denied that he made love to Miss Aird or proposed to her. He said that he had been drunk the greater part of the time since the death of his wife.

Judge Nevins will charge the jury at the opening of court this morning.

ISSUE AROUND BABY FIREBUG.

Judge Mac Set the Juvenile Arsonist Free Sent to a Reformatory.

Thirteen-year-old Walter Wenzinger, an inmate of the New York Juvenile Asylum at 142d street and Amsterdam avenue, was committed to the House of the Good Shepherd yesterday from the Harlem police court as incorrigible. The managers of the institution say it was he who set fire to the coal room the night of Dec. 31. There were then 300 inmates in the asylum. The children were just leaving the dining hall for the fire was raging when they reached the hall. Some of the girls had a chance to get their coats and hats.

The matron saw the flames for the first time when she was about to leave the coal room with a pail of coal. Within a few minutes before the fire was discovered she had seen the girl Inez Wenzinger and the girl Ida Wenzinger, sisters, and also Walter, talking to the janitor in the room. It was shortly after this that the girl Inez was being sent to bed in the asylum.

Bridge Blocked in Rush Hours.

The brakes on a Brooklyn Bridge train that left this side at 8:25 last night got tangled and the train was stopped for five minutes, causing a blockade on the tracks and a crush on the platforms. The police were obliged to close the gates at the Bridge entrance until the tangle was straightened out.

Established 1823.

WILSON WHISKEY

That's All!

THE WILSON DISTILLING CO., Baltimore, Md.

FOR THE FLYING MACHINE PRIZE

Whitehead of Bridgeport Says He Will Compete at St. Louis.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 15.—Gustave Whitehead, the flying machine inventor here, said to-day that he will be a contestant for the $100,000 prize which has been offered by the World's Fair Company for a successful demonstration of a dirigible airship, flying machine or balloon at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition next year. Whitehead is at work perfecting a machine which he says will navigate the air. He is backed by New York capital and has a force of skilled mechanics at work under supervision in his machine shop on Pine street.

Whitehead is elated over the offer. He commends the company for its enterprise and thinks that the Exposition will mark the time when the problem of aërial navigation will be solved. He is in favor of having a described course decided upon for each contestant, so that all the points of the competing machine will be tried. The figure 8, he says, will expose a machine to all the winds, and the inventor should be required to start at a given point, cover the course as laid out and then descend to earth without injuring the mechanism.

Hiram Maxim, Whitehead says, is the only man whom he will fear in the competition. He says that M. Santos Dumont can accomplish nothing unless the winds are favorable to his balloon. Maxim, Whitehead says, is a level-headed man who is working along the same lines as he is, that of the aëroplane.

Whitehead's new machine will be an aëroplane with a hull like a boat under it, in which the mechanism will be carried. He is confident that a flying machine will win the prize, and show its superiority over a dirigible balloon.

REAL BOY DETECTIVE.

Aged 14—Catches a Trunk Thief and Has Caught Other Robbers.

Fourteen-year-old Joseph Brode of 355 East Seventy-fourth street, by detective work he has done within the last two years, has brought about the arrest of ten criminals in Capt. Brown's precinct, who might otherwise have escaped. He was in the Yorkville police court yesterday, having caused the arrest of a man accused of stealing a trunk. The police allow the boy to carry a small billy, and he wears on his coat collar the precinct number, 25.

He was "rubbering" along First avenue late on Tuesday night and saw two men carry a trunk into the hallway of a house on Seventy-fourth street, just around the corner, and then come out and separate. By the Sherlock Holmes process he reasoned that a robbery had been committed, and followed one of the men for two blocks. Then, billy in hand, he walked up to him and said:

"Say, the Cap'n wants to see you, down to the station."

"Run along, bub, or your mother'll spank you for bein' out late," replied the man, looking down at the lad.

Brode shouted for the police and seized the man by the legs. He held on so tenaciously that the man fell on the sidewalk. Before he could free himself Policeman McNirnly arrived and arrested the man. He said he was James Lanagan of 323 East Seventy-second street.

Charles Abrams testified in court that the trunk was stolen from his store, at 1437 First avenue. Magistrate Mayo held the prisoner in $300 bail for trial.

HOW DID OAKES JURY STAND?

Opposing Counsel Make Conflicting Statements on This Point in Court.

How the jury stood in the recent mistrial of the suit of Francis J. Oakes for an absolute divorce was a subject of discussion before Justice Dugro yesterday of the Supreme Court on a motion of Mrs. Oakes for an increase of the alimony of $25 a week she is now receiving and an additional counsel fee. Col. Alexander S. Bacon for Oakes and A. H. Hummel for Mrs. Oakes were animated on this point.

After referring to the large means of Mr. Oakes and the needs of his wife Mr. Hummel, to show the weakness of the case against her, said the jury had stood 10 to 2 in her favor.

"No, that's not so," chipped in Col. Bacon, adding, to show the strength of his case, "I am informed that the jury stood 11 for Mr. Oakes and 1 for his wife."

"That's false," retorted Mr. Hummel. "I refer your Honor to your associate, Justice Truax, for confirmation of my statement that the jury at first stood 8 to 4 in favor of Mrs. Oakes and then 10 to 2 in her favor."

Col. Bacon said he had received information from four of the jurors and had seen the foreman, and he knew that his information was correct. He also offered to lay his head against a pumpkin that he was correct. Mr. Hummel remarked that he was flattering the head, and again referred the court to Justice Truax.

Decision on the motion was reserved.

CONTEST AT COFFEE EXCHANGE.

Election Today Is to Settle Two Questions of Importance to Brokers.

A spirited contest among members of the Coffee Exchange as to whether a clearing house shall be established or not will be settled to-day at the annual election of the Exchange. Two tickets have been nominated, the opposition ticket favoring the clearing house scheme. Every [illegible] of business brokers holds tickets for the Exchange, but there are those in all the other regular tickets.

There is another contest going on at the exchange. This being a fast commercial light between the bulls and the bears in the market. Lemuel Ross, the leader of the bulls, while the bears are led by S. H. Ehrman & Bro.

THE BAR FLUTTER'S SPEAKEASY.

End of That Time Now 100 Years Old and Has Her Own Homecoming.

[illegible]

Prices are sliding down here, Overcoats, Suits and Trousers; suppose you slide in to enjoy the pleasure of catching 'em at these reduced prices.

Freezing or soft, you can't miss the fun; something sliding every day; drop in and see!

Specials To-day—Several hundred Men's Overcoats, **$25.**

Prices were $40, $35, $32; some $28 and $30.

Some silk lined, all handsome, big, long,—the great "Papa" Styles; all Sizes; *all our Stores.*

Smith, Gray & Co.

NEW YORK:
BROADWAY AT 31ST ST.

Brooklyn: Broadway at Bedford Ave.; Fulton St. at Flatbush Ave.

$12,000 TOO MUCH FOR BOY'S LIFE.

The Verdict Against Metropolitan Set Aside as Excessive.

Justice Gildersleeve of the Supreme Court set aside yesterday as excessive a verdict of $12,000 which Grace McDonald obtained against the Metropolitan Street Railway Company for causing the death of her son, Charles, 12 years old.

The boy was killed at Thirty-ninth street and Broadway in December, 1895, by a car. The Court says "he was in perfect health, of a bright mind, and active, industrious disposition." He was earning $3 a week, all of which he gave his mother. A jury in November gave the mother a verdict of $12,000. Justice Gildersleeve says:

"Upon all the testimony I am inclined to find that the verdict indicates such evidence of passion, partiality or prejudice on the part of the jury as calls upon the trial court to reduce the amount of the verdict or grant a new trial. To my mind the verdict seems excessive."

The Court orders that the verdict be set aside unless the plaintiff will consent that it be reduced to $7,500.

This is the third trial of the case. On the first trial there was a disagreement of the jury. In the second trial a verdict of $5,000 was rendered but on appeal a new trial was ordered. Several small verdicts in similar cases have been set aside as inadequate.

THEATRICAL SPARRING LEGAL.

No Violation of the Lewis Law When It's Merely a Stage Incident, Mayo Rules.

Magistrate Mayo decided in the Yorkville police court yesterday in the case of "Young Corbett," the featherweight champion, that it is no violation of the Lewis amendment to the Horton law to have sparring between pugilists when such sparring is simply an incident of short duration in a theatrical performance. "Young Corbett" was in court in response to a summons obtained by Acting Capt. Churchill of the Fifth street station for Corbett, his sparring partner, Charley Seager, and Morris Braus, Senator Tim Sullivan's partner in the management of the Dewey Theatre.

Lawyer Charles Hoffmann argued for the defendants that the sparring in question was an incident in a short sketch in which the hero and the villain settled a quarrel with their fists instead of by the usual stage duel. The acting captain said the sparring only lasted for about six minutes.

"This does not seem to me to be a violation of law," pronounced the Magistrate. "I do not wish to establish a precedent, but according to the evidence I believe no offense was committed and I therefore, dismiss the complaint."

JUVENILE POLICY SHOP RAID.

Detectives Catch a Boy Playing and Raid a Candy Store.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hinke, aged 50, of 981 Grand street, Williamsburg, was arrested yesterday by Detectives Cassidy and Bolton of the Bedford street station for running a policy shop. Information that the woman was doing a thriving policy business with children as patrons reached Capt. Burfind last week and he set a watch on Mrs. Hinke's candy store.

The detectives followed a boy into the store yesterday morning. The boy passed to a back room where he handed some money to the woman. The detectives followed Mrs. Hinke into the room and confronted her with the boy. The woman pleaded her guilty to the Tenth street police court and was held.

POLICE PENSION TEST CASE.

To Be Made by Patrolman Shaw Request for Retirement Is Refused.

Patrolman Theodore Shaw of the East [illegible] street station has applied to Commissioner Partridge for retirement on a pension after twenty years' service. His application was denied, and he will make a test case of it. Shaw's health is said to be broken by a [illegible] received while on duty. He is [illegible] years old and has been a policeman for twenty years. Under the present law of [illegible] Shaw could be pensioned after twenty years' service, if he could be shown to be permanently disabled before he can be retired on a pension.

E. W. Grove

This signature is on every box of the genuine **Laxative Bromo-Quinine** Tablets the remedy that cures a cold in one day.