HERE'S A TUNNEL OF MYSTERY.

BELMONT BORING WITHOUT AUTHORITY, SAYS THE CITY.

Meantime People in Neighborhood of Shaft Are Getting Used to Earthquake-Like Blasts—Valuable Franchise at Stake—If City Wins Suit It Will Get Tunnel.

The fact that one man was killed and another badly injured in the so-called Belmont tunnel on Thursday did not surprise the residents, hotel guests and storekeepers of the neighborhood. From the manner in which the blasting has been carried on they have been led to expect any sort of an accident short of an earthquake, so that the fatal mangling of a workman or two by the premature explosion of a dynamite cartridge was considered as merely an incident in the campaign that Mr. Belmont and his assistants are carrying on to get the tunnel through before the courts can pass upon the legal rights of the company to do the work at all.

The blasting has been going on in Forty-second street for many months. For a long time the work was conducted in secret, and no one, not even the representatives of the Corporation Counsel's office, was allowed to go down in the shaft that was being sunk in private property between Third and Lexington avenue to inspect the work.

Then came an explosion in which a man was killed and several others injured. Again the Corporation Counsel, through his first assistant, Theodore Connoly, demanded to inspect the work in order to be able to determine whether the rights of the city were being intruded upon in the matter of tunnelling under public highways without permission of the proper authorities.

Again the officials of the tunnel company and its engineers forbade entrance to all outsiders. They asserted that the shaft in Forty-second street had been sunk on private property and that no one could enter it legally without their permission. The Corporation Counsel threatened to make it a matter for the Health Board and its investigators were finally allowed to inspect the work.

They discovered that the tunnel was being built under Forty-second street west to the Grand Central Station and east to the river. When he had read the report of these inspectors Mr. Connoly decided that the franchise under which the Belmont people people were working gave them no authority to construct the tunnel as it was laid out and he immediately took steps to put a stop to the work.

Under his direction the permit for blasting which had been issued by the bureau of combustibles of the Fire Department to the Degnon Construction Company, the contractors, was revoked and all blasting came to a stop for the time. The Belmont company then moved to enjoin the city from interfering with the work on the ground that it was a public necessity and that the merits of the case could be settled at the trial of the action.

The motion was granted and under the ruling of Justice Blanchard the bureau of combustibles was obliged to renew the blasting permit. Ever since then the work has been going on under pressure and it is said that most of the tunnel in this borough has been completed. The shaft on private property in Forty-second street has been sunk to the depth of 112 feet and the tunnel has been put through west to the Grand Central Station and east to the East River.

In Long Island City another shaft has been put down on private property in Jackson avenue. The work has been directed from eight different points, and a representative of the Belmont company said that the first car would be run through the tunnel from the Grand Central Station to Queens before January 1 next, the date fixed by the franchise for the completion of the work.

In the meantime Assistant Corporation Counsel Connoly is pushing the suit which he began in the name of the city for the purpose of establishing the fact that the company had no right of any kind to build the tunnel under Forty-second street. If he gets a decision sustaining his contention the tunnel will become the property of the city. The suit was tried recently before Justice Fitzgerald of the Supreme Court and on August 3 the city filed its brief. From the start of the action, it is said, the Belmont company's counsel pursued dilatory tactics, and it was not until a few weeks ago that they filed their brief.

Since the trial ended they have also filed a supplementary brief and the Court has not yet rendered its decision. No matter which side wins in the preliminary action the case will be carried to the Court of Appeals for final adjudication.

The property at stake is of vast value. The Belmont company is operating under the old Steinway franchise, which was granted years ago for a tunnel under the East River from Queens to this city. It was held up for a long time in the Long Island City Board of Aldermen, but was finally granted and the contract for the digging was awarded to one of the Aldermen of that municipality. The work was begun quietly and few knew it was in progress until a blast went off prematurely, killing three men and wounding nineteen. Then the work stopped and nothing more was done with the tunnel again until the Belmont people got hold of the franchise and renewed the digging in 1905.

According to the arguments of Mr. Connoly on the trial of the action, the Belmont company has no right of any kind to build the tunnel under the plans now in use, which were drawn by William Barclay Parsons, who was the chief engineer of the Rapid Transit Commission, and who is now acting in a similar capacity for the Belmont company.

According to the original plans of the Steinway company, Mr. Connoly told the Court, the route was to be across Thirty-fourth street to Ninth avenue, but this was all changed by the plans Mr. Parsons drew and the tunnel was placed arbitrarily and without permission of the properly constituted authorities under Forty-second street.

Another point brought up by the Assistant Corporation Counsel was that the tunnel as laid out by Mr. Parsons crosses under 300 feet of land under water on this side of the river that had been deeded to the city by the State, and that therefore it could not be bored without permission of the municipal authorities. The Belmont authorities contended that they had subsequently obtained permission to cross this land, but Mr. Connoly argued that if such permission had been granted it was worthless. The Assistant Corporation Counsel also contended that the company had never received any consents from the city to build the tunnel in Forty-second street and that as the route had been moved bodily eight blocks north the consents originally obtained were null and void.

There has always been more or less mystery as to the real object of the tunnel and as to the actual connection it was intended to make. Even to-day it is not known either by the citizens of Queens and Manhattan or the city authorities where the terminals are actually to be. William Barclay Parsons, who drew the plans, was questioned on this point when he was a witness in the trial before Justice Fitzgerald and his answers were far from satisfactory to the legal representatives of the city. Apparently the tunnel extends from one vacant lot in Long Island City to another in Forty-second street, Manhattan. Everybody connected with the enterprise refused to throw any light upon this very important detail and the company went ahead with its work without taking the public into its confidence.

A representative of the Belmont company admitted yesterday, however, that the terminal on this side would be at the Grand Central Station and that the tunnel there would probably connect with the subway. There is also a possibility that it will be extended to Eleventh avenue if the company wins and the city officials insist. The new plans provide for this extension. The tunnel, he said, was being built to connect the New York and Queens county trolley system, which is owned by the Belmont interests, with the subway and other transportation lines in Manhattan.

The Steinway franchise if upheld is of enormous value, and under the present laws nothing like it could be granted to any private corporation. It is a perpetual franchise and carries with it many privileges that could not be obtained to-day. It contains a clause for the payment to the city of a small percentage of the gross receipts.

In its hurry to complete the work before the decision of the courts is reached the Belmont company has pushed the boring with extraordinary speed. It would have progressed faster, it is said, if it had not been for the mud encountered more than 100 feet below Forty-second street.

Although the company has managed to keep within the regulations of the bureau of combustibles in the use of dynamite, the blasts it sets off have from time to time created terror over a wide territory, houses and business buildings being shaken for blocks around. There is a solid ledge of rock in that neighborhood and at times the houses of people living as far south as Thirty-eighth street have been shaken as if by an earthquake. The explosion on Thursday was mild compared to some of the regular blasts.

It was said with authority yesterday that the Belmont company would spend $9,000,000 on the improvement and extension of the trolley system in Queens when the tunnel is completed. Many new lines will be built or extended and many new cars will be added. The improvement, according to the Belmont people, will add greatly to the rapid development of Queens and thus relieve the congestion in Manhattan. For this reason, they aver, the city should not interfere with the enterprise because it will go far toward solving the problem of crowding in Manhattan without a cent of cost to the municipality and help to ease the burden of taxation here by increasing real estate valuations across the East River.

IT'S A HOLDUP, SAYS METZ.

Even Coler Thought the Price Asked of the B. R. T. Was Too High.

The Board of Estimate began the consideration yesterday of the project to run surface cars through Livingston street, Brooklyn, for the purpose of relieving the congested traffic conditions in Fulton street. Livingston street has been widened at an expense of more than $2,000,000, and at the time the improvement was authorized it was understood that the new thoroughfare would be used to divert some of the heavy traffic from Fulton street, but so far nothing has been done toward this end. While it is true that the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company has agreed to apply for a franchise for the street, they are not willing to comply with the conditions recommended by Chief Engineer Nicholls of the Bureau of Franchises.

At yesterday's meeting, when the Board of Estimate sat as a committee of the whole, Comptroller Metz supported the objections to the report made by President Winter of the B. R. T., especially the clause which urges that the company should pay $33,150 a year for the Livingston street franchise. Mr. Metz asserted that the demand was exorbitant and was really a holdup.

Mr. Winter intimated that his company would be willing to lay tracks on Livingston street and operate cars through that thoroughfare, but said that the company would not pay for the privilege for the reason that the company would be only obeying a public demand for the operation of a line of cars through Livingston street.

President McGowan of the Board of Aldermen and Borough President Ahearn both pointed out that Mr. Nicholls must have had some good reason for thinking that the line would be a profitable one; otherwise he would not have suggested the charging of a large annual payment for the franchise.

Mr. Metz said that the report did not show that Mr. Nicholls had an intelligent idea of the needs of Brooklyn for the new route and even Borough President Coler, an avowed enemy of the B. R. T., ventured the opinion that the terms were a little high.

"A little high?" exclaimed the Comptroller. "It's nothing but a holdup. I don't care two cents for the B. R. T., but this proposition is nonsensical!"

Finally Mr. Winter was asked to write out his objections to the report and to submit them to the Board of Estimate within forty-eight hours.

SCHUETZEN CORPS MAN HIT.

Was Beating a Bass Drum at the Head of an Early Morning Procession.

Policeman Edward Lane of Hoboken was arraigned in the Recorder's Court yesterday for striking Diedrich Peters, a well known German, on the head with his billy at an early morning noisefest of members of the Hoboken Schuetzen Corps. The Schuetzen Corps men had an election and celebrated the event with big steins. Then they took to the middle of the street and marched behind Peters as he lambasted a big brass drum.

The cop didn't like the racket and ordered the drummer to stop. The Germans resented any interference and told Peters to go ahead. Lane broke through the ranks, seized the man with the drum and made him quit. Peters declared the policeman beat a tattoo on his head with a stick and the policeman said he didn't. Recorder Stanton held Lane for the Grand Jury.

INDIGESTION KILLS BIG SNAKE.

A Dozen Chickens Too Much for 900 Pound Boa Constrictor.

SUFFOLK, Va., Oct. 5.—Princess, one of the most valuable assets of the Barkoot Amusement Company, died last night. Princess was a boa constrictor, 28 feet long, 12 inches in diameter at the thickest part. It weighed 920 pounds and was said to be more than 100 years old.

Princess died of indigestion, brought on by overeating. At its last meal in Manchester, Va., some days ago, it swallowed a dozen chickens.

The Weather.

Cloudy and rainy conditions prevailed yesterday, in the Lake regions, New York, New Jersey and New England. The centre of the disturbing area was over the upper Lakes.

There was a comparatively low area off this coast, and on the coast of Texas a storm appeared accompanied by heavy rains in Texas and the lower Mississippi valley.

The development of the high pressure area in the West has extended over all the country west of the Mississippi River and the west Gulf district, and the cooler weather attending it has spread into the Lake regions, Mississippi, Ohio and Tennessee valleys, with frosts in Utah, Colorado, Nebraska and South Dakota, and freezing temperatures in sections of Utah, Nevada, Idaho and South Dakota.

In this vicinity the temperatures were somewhat higher.

In this city the day was cloudy and threatening, after rain in the early morning; warmer; wind light to fresh northeast to southeast; average humidity, 71 per cent.; barometer, corrected to read to sea level, at 8 A. M., 29.86; 3 P. M., 29.85.

The temperature yesterday as recorded by the official thermometer is shown in the annexed table:

	1906.	1905.		1906.	1905.
9 A. M.	69°	66°	6 P. M.	68°	73°
12 M.	67°	75°	9 P. M.	67°	69°
3 P. M.	70°	79°	12 Mid.	67°	63°

Highest temperature, 71°, at 2:26 P. M.

WASHINGTON FORECAST FOR TO-DAY AND TO-MORROW

For eastern New York, eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, showers to-day; fair and cooler to-morrow; fresh west to northwest winds.

For New England, showers to-day and cooler in northwest portion; fair and cooler to-morrow; fresh to brisk southwest winds, becoming northwest.

For the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, showers to-day; fair and cooler to-morrow; fresh east winds, becoming west.

For western Pennsylvania, rain and cooler to-day; fair to-morrow; fresh northwest winds.

For western New York, fair and cooler to-day; fair to-morrow; fresh northwest winds.

DEPORTED FOR HER CHARITY.

RUSSIAN GIRL GOT TRACHOMA ON VOYAGE HERE.

Slight Case and Will Soon Be Cured, but Back She Must Go Despite Prosperous Brothers Here, Who Are Her Nearest Relatives—Came in the First Cabin.

A case of unusual hardship worked by the rigid provisions of the immigration laws came up before Judge Lacombe in the United States Circuit Court yesterday on the writ of habeas corpus sued out against the Ellis Island authorities to restrain the deportation of Hamel Woshner, an unusually pretty girl of high caste in Lithuania and a first cabin passenger on the Kronprinz Wilhelm, landing here on September 18.

The girl is the daughter of a wealthy landowner who was the starotsa or headman of the town of Vibissi, their home. The father died several years ago. The girl's three brothers, of whom two were studying for the Roman Catholic priesthood, decided that Lithuania was becoming too difficult a place to live in under the hard rule of the Russian chinovniks and decided to sell their property and remove to America. This was done. But it was thought best to allow the little sister, Hamel, to remain under the care of her aunt in St. Petersburg until she had finished her education, then proceeding at a French school for girls in the Russian capital.

Last summer, this having been completed and Hamel having turned 19, her brothers decided that they wanted to have her with them. All three are now located in Pittsburg, where the two who have become priests are attached to a Roman Catholic church, the third brother, B. W. Woshner, being a prosperous wholesale clothing manufacturer at 1306 Carson street.

So this summer the merchant brother went over to Russia and placed in the girl's hands funds to defray all her expenses. Having to hurry back on account of business affairs he left her to come over in the custody of friends. This she did on the Kronprinz Wilhelm, taking first cabin accommodations at Bremen.

But on the ship were a large number of Russian refugees who had lost most of their goods in the disorders and were in poor plight indeed. Russian women have a strong sense of their duty to the poor and needy and Hamel, just graduated from finishing school, spent all her spare time and money among the refugees, consoling them, brewing them good Russian tea instead of the tea furnished by the stewards and helping them in every way she could.

The girl had passed the physical examination her brother had arranged for her at Bremen with the ordeal at Ellis Island in mind and was pronounced in perfect health. What was her grief and disappointment to be informed when she was again examined on landing that she had contracted trachoma, although of the most trifling nature, among the steerage passengers and during the last few days of the voyage. Therefore she would have to be deported.

Her brothers, who were all on hand to meet her, engaged a lawyer, Elias Rosenthal, and made every effort to restrain the deportation. They offered to have the girl sequestrated under Government supervision at their expense until she recovered. The Ellis Island physicians themselves said that she would recover in a few weeks and that the trouble was not serious. But the law which made provision for such treatment being extended to the wife or children of a naturalized American citizen had excepted the relation between sister and brother as one too slight to be included in its merciful provisions. With the merest technicality barring her from her closest kin on earth, she had to go back. The law was plain.

As a forlorn hope Lawyer Rosenthal sued out a writ of habeas corpus and had the girl brought before Judge Lacombe to see if there was no appeal that could be taken to Washington or a higher court to give the girl a chance to get well. As she sat there demurely between the two sombrely clad priests, her brothers, she attracted the admiring glances of every man in the gloomy court room. With the waving black hair and brown eyes, the slender figure and dignified mien of the Russian girl of good class, she made even Judge Lacombe relax somewhat the expression of judicial severity which he always wears on the bench. But the Judge shook his head when he was asked to order the girl's retention in this country until she could be cured.

"The law provides neither remedy nor appeal in the circumstances. I can do nothing but permit the authorities to deport this girl," said he.

When the decision had been translated to her, the girl clasped her hands to her breast with a convulsive tremor. She kept from sobbing before the strange men, but her eyes filled with tears in spite of herself, and she buried her face in the shoulder of her black robed brother. She will return on the next North German Lloyd steamer.

But as she volubly explained through her tears to her brothers as they went with her out of the court room, it would be only a little while before she would be entirely cured of the trouble, this charity sickness," she laughingly called it, and then she would straightway come to America and her brothers again. Of course, it was an unfavorable omen, this failing the first time. But it would come out all right in the end, she felt sure of that. And laughing and crying at once, she went with her brothers out of the court room.

GRAPE-NUTS.

CAN'T STOP TALKING.

Farmer Talks Grape-Nuts to all His Friends.

The average farmer is nobody's fool. It takes a pretty level head to run a farm, and the more carefully he thinks the more successful he is. A Mo. farmer writes:

"I want to say something about Grape-Nuts as a food, but as I am just a common old farmer, I can't put it as strong as I would like to.

"But I would love for all the world to know (that don't already know) about the merit of Grape-Nuts food. It has done me and my family more good in the way of bringing about good health, adjusting our systems, purifying our blood and keeping our stomachs in good order than all the medicines we have ever taken.

"My little boy was pale and slim, did not have much appetite, until we began the use of Grape-Nuts about a year ago. Now he is robust and hearty, eats Grape-Nuts every day and enjoys perfect health.

"I have prevailed upon my neighbors to try Grape-Nuts, and it is astonishing, the results. I would not be without it if I had to pay $1.00 a package.

"A year ago I read about it and had my grocer order some. I bought most of it and soon saw the benefits from it and then began to talk Grape-Nuts to everyone. Now I don't know how many packages the grocer sells each week, but he keeps nearly everybody around here supplied.

"Now you can publish this if you want to, or do as you please, but you can't keep me from talking about Grape-Nuts, for there is no equal to it anywhere." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read the book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a reason."

Get out your bills more promptly and more accurately by using an Elliott-Fisher Combined Billing and Adding Machine.

Elliott-Fisher Co., Broadway at Worth St.

MAYOR KILLS COURT GRAFT.

Continued from First Page.

should be asked to pay the bill. The original plan was to have those named mandamus the Board of Estimate to compel it to provide for their salaries in case there was objection.

As soon as the resolution was read Magistrate Steinert moved that the matter be laid over to the next regular meeting. The clerk started to call the roll. When Magistrate Cornell's name was called President Wahle read a letter from Mr. Cornell in which he said that the short notice made it impossible for him to attend, owing to a previous engagement, adding:

I am particularly anxious to have a voice in the debate about the resolution to be considered at this special meeting. I am unalterably opposed to a change in the present system of policemen in the courts. Apart from the political aspect, I am satisfied that the only proper way to preserve order in these places is to retain the police.

Magistrate Barlow jumped up and moved that Magistrate Cornell's letter be incorporated in the minutes. President Wahle said it would be placed on file. The motion to put off the matter was lost, five to four, Magistrate Walsh having come in. There were not enough votes to pass the motion in the form in which it was put. Messrs Barlow, Crane, Mayo and Whitman stuck together in opposition. Then Magistrate Steinert moved to adjourn. That was lost, four to five, Walsh voting not to adjourn. Magistrate Finn then moved for a recess of an hour but withdrew the proposition. Magistrate Whitman said he wanted the matter settled at that meeting; the members of the board had been called to vote on the question and he wanted it done. He moved that the resolution be taken from the table for action.

Magistrate Steinert suddenly became solicitous for Magistrate Cornell to have a vote. Magistrate Whitman said that Cornell was opposed to the scheme, but Steinert said it was only fair that he should have a chance to go on record and therefore it ought to be considered at a regular meeting. Magistrate Whitman waxed wroth at once.

"I violate no confidence and I speak without personal feeling," said he, "when I say that the president and the three members of this board called this meeting for the very purpose of passing this measure. You thought you had got the eight votes. You haven't got them, but I fear that at some future time you may have them. I want to see this bill killed now. I propose that you take your medicine right now. The very men who brought us here this afternoon now ask us to adjourn."

Magistrate Mayo then sprang into the fight. He declared that the measure had already been considered at special meetings and that it was a mere pretext to put it off to a regular meeting. He said Magistrate Steinert himself opposed at one meeting considering the matter at a regular meeting. Magistrate Mayo said it was simply a scheme to allow the president of the board to unload 100 civilian employees on the courts. He added:

"We are as intelligent now at a special meeting as we shall be later. I want to record my full and unalterable opposition to the appointment of these men. I want my disapproval to be made as distinct and as emphatic as it possibly can be. We have been called here to vote on this proposition. I think I am entitled to be allowed to vote on it."

Magistrate Barlow again sprang up and said he indorsed every word that Mayo had said. Magistrate Finn said he had signed the call and he was within his legal rights. He also said he was willing to have a vote on the measure. When the vote was taken he voted the other way, however. Magistrate Crane said he had been called there on a matter of business. A special meeting was always to dispose of some matter quickly. He wanted to have it done.

Magistrate Walsh asked if the Mayor had not favored the scheme early in the year, and Wahle said he had not written in favor of it in his report until Commissioner Bingham had asked that the police be taken out of the courts. He also said that he had gone with Gen. Bingham to the Board of Aldermen to push the plan. He did not say that Gen. Bingham and the Mayor had changed their attitude on the measure as soon as they learned the full import of it.

Then Magistrate Wahle launched into a denunciation of the present police squads in court. He protested against making the courts an "asylum for aged and infirm policemen." He termed the policemen "senile squads," and added:

"If the authorities will not send us real men instead of decrepit specimens, some of whom have been on the force forty years or more, why I say we will take some means of getting rid of them."

Then President Wahle told of the Board of Estimate meeting. He said that the Mayor had spoken to him in a friendly manner and added that he said the board wanted to appoint a committee to confer with the Board of Estimate. Magistrate Barlow got up and said he was sorry to disagree with President Wahle, but he heard what the Mayor said and he regarded it as not at all friendly but as harsh. He declared that he wanted to say no more except that he had absolute reason to believe that the Mayor was opposed to the scheme.

Magistrate Whitman's motion to take the resolution from the table was then defeated by an amendment that Steinert offered moving that the resolution be considered at the November regular meeting. President Wahle ruled that such a motion did not require eight votes and it was carried by a vote of 7 to 4, Finelite and Sweetser having come in. The vote in favor of the motion was: Finelite, Finn, Moss, Steinert, Walsh and Wahle. The vote against was: Barlow, Crane, Mayo and Whitman.

Magistrate Breen, whose vote the advocates of the measure must have to pass it and make the required eight, did not attend. It was said in his behalf that he would probably not forget the pledges he made when Mayor Low appointed him not to let politics affect his actions as a Magistrate.

COULD NOT PLAY TO PAPER.

Manager Blumenstahl Thinks Hall Owner Was Lucky to Get $5.

Israel H. Blumenthal, 29 years old, of 12 Second street, New York city, who says he is a theatrical manager, was locked up at Hoboken police headquarters last night for obtaining the use of Odd Fellows' Hall under false pretences. He advertised to give a theatrical performance in Yiddish and paid $5 on account for the use of the hall, agreeing to hand over the balance, $20, when the curtain went up.

It didn't go up at the scheduled time, because hardly anything but deadhead tickets and only a few coins were taken in at the door. Fred Hagens, manager of the hall, demanded his money and several long haired actors clamored for "their coin." Blumenthal said he didn't have any and Hagens caused his arrest. The theatrical manager told Roundsman Sullivan that a fellow couldn't be expected to give a performance to an audience of deadheads.

"Hagens got $5 on account," he said, "and he ought to be satisfied."

SUBWAY EXPLOSION KILLS 8.

GAS IN PHILADELPHIA STREET EXCAVATION BLOWS UP.

Thoroughfare of Timbers, Bearing City's Traffic, Hurled High in Air—Column of Flame Reaches Tops of High Buildings—Damage Estimated at $500,000.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 5.—Eight persons were killed and at least two score injured by an explosion of gas which wrecked the unfinished portion of the Market street subway between Sixth and Seventh streets early this morning.

Pedestrians were blown high in the air only to fall back amid a rain of broken glass and other débris into a great hole from which leaped a stream of fire.

Buildings for a block around rocked as though there had been an earthquake shock, trolley cars rolled on their tracks, and thousands of panes of glass were shattered. No building within a block of the explosion escaped damage.

In the midst of the flaming gas, which leaped nearly to the height of the tallest buildings, were seen the bodies of two horses and the metal work of a large wagon which had been caught, and hurled into the air, to drop back into the pit. The driver of the team, William Felony, escaped as by miracle.

None of the dead has as yet been identified and workmen are searching for bodies in the crater left by the explosion.

The unfinished portion of the subway is roofed in with timbers, making a roadway for the passage of traffic. When the explosion came the street was crowded with people going to work, but fortunately few workmen had gathered for the day in the subway excavation.

There were a multitude of narrow escapes from death as the exploding gas hurled the timber roofing into the air. The timbers were twisted into débris completely blocking the street. The trolley wires were broken by the flying planks and all traffic was brought to a sudden stop.

The explosion is supposed to have been caused by a leaking gas main some distance below the depth reached in excavating for the subway. Water was of no avail to stop the towering blaze which followed the explosion, and the firemen fought the flames with dirt. The subway roofing burst into flames and the fire was only subdued after a stubborn fight of two hours.

Just as the explosion came a double team dirt cart was being driven directly across the covered subway by William Felony, a driver for the Millard Construction Company, which is building the subway. Driver, horses and wagon were blown high in the air. Felony landed in the street and was only slightly hurt.

Several of the workmen who were standing around the derrick near the subway shaft were blown across the street and either killed or injured. Many passersby were injured by the falling glass that showered down from the surrounding buildings.

Although the damage done to the subway, the city's gas and water mains and to the electric light and telephone companies is considerable it will not compare with the havoc wrought to surrounding property. From Fifth to Seventh street on Market and for half a square on Sixth street both north and south of Market street plate glass windows were broken and thousands of dollars worth of goods in the show windows were damaged. The loss, it is estimated, is more than $500,000.

Director McKenty, District Attorney Bell, Highway Chief Hunter and other officials are on the scene directing the search for bodies and the work of repair.

William H. Millard of the constructing company lays the blame for the accident on the United Gas Improvement Company. He said to-night that one of his engineers detected the leak in the gas main Thursday night and immediately notified the gas company. Millard declares that had the gas company not neglected to turn off the supply as requested the explosion would not have occurred.

The Millard officials say that had the explosion occurred a few minutes after 7 o'clock instead of shortly before there would have been great loss of life, as the men would have been at work in the excavation and could not have escaped.

EX-CORONER HOEBER DEAD.

Was Elected on the Reform Ticket of 1894 and Served Three Years.

Dr. Emil Wilhelm Hoeber, who served as Coroner of this county during the administration of Mayor Strong, died yesterday morning at his home, 610 Lexington avenue, after a few days illness. He was born in Carlsruhe, Baden, Germany, in 1833, and attended the universities at Göttingen and Munich. He came here in 1858 and graduated in medicine from the New York University. He was a member of the County Medical Society and the German Medical Society. He was appointed a United States examiner of pension applicants by President Roosevelt three years ago. His body is to be cremated at Fresh Pond. He leaves a daughter and one son.

As the result of criticism while he was Coroner, Dr. Hoeber brought a libel suit against a newspaper and received a six-cent verdict. A news item was printed about the suicide of a Mrs. Clara Jaeger, who, it was said, went to the Coroner and asked him how to write the report of a suicide. He was said to have told her, and she replied that she would have one to report the next morning. She was found dead that morning, and a letter left by her gave a full account of the suicide. The newspaper commented editorially upon the case, and used the occurrence as an argument for the abolition of the coroner's office. Coroner Hoeber had many personal qualities and characteristics which made him an interesting personage during the three years he was in office.

Blind, but Well Informed on Politics.

John J. Nicholson, 55 years old, a blind newsdealer, died yesterday at his home, 258 Mercer street, Jersey City. He was able by means of his cane to find his way alone all over the city. He kept himself informed of things political and always took a leading part in the nightly debates of Democrats who dropped in his store to see him. He was a member of the Robert Davis Association.

OBITUARY.

Dr. Edward Bliss Foote, who for many years was recognized as one of the leading physicians of New York, and whose many works on medical practice have been accepted as standards, died at his country home in Larchmont yesterday morning at the age of 87 years. His death came after a long period of feebleness, induced by advancing years and the attacks of disease. He wrote several books. Among them are: "Medical Common Sense," "Plain Home Talks" and "Home Encyclopædia of Medical and Social Science." He also launched the medical magazine *Health Monthly*, twenty years ago, and until the last few years was its editor. Several years ago he gave up active practice and retired to his country home in Larchmont. Two sons survive him. They are Dr. Edward Bond Foote and Dr. Hubert P. Foote, both of this city. He will be buried from the home of Dr. Edward Foote, 120 Lexington avenue, to-morrow afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Joseph Conklin died on Thursday at his home, 676 Macon street, Brooklyn. He was born in Brooklyn sixty-seven years ago. For thirty-five years he had been employed as an inspector of customs. He was a member of the Kings County Republican Club and of the Old Homestead Club. In early life he was a shipfitter and was employed by George Steers in the construction of the yacht America. His wife and two daughters survive him.

Edward Earl died at his home, 457 Willoughby avenue, Brooklyn, on Thursday after a prolonged illness. He was born in Ireland seventy-seven years ago. For half a century he was a Sandy Hook pilot. He was a member of the Sandy Hook Pilots' Benevolent Association. He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

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TO GIVE "MASANIELLO" HERE.

Auber's Opera Will Be Produced at the Hammerstein Opera House.

Oscar Hammerstein is going to give "Masaniello," which has not been heard here in many years, and he yesterday announced that the scenery and costumes would be ready in time for him to produce the old work in the first two weeks of the season at the new Manhattan Opera House. This is Auber's "Masaniello," which was revived several years ago at the Royal Opera House in Berlin and in several other European cities. The opera is called in Italian "La Muette de Portici," and the part of the dumb heroine will be played by Belle Dazie, who is to be the first ballet girl of the theatre and who used to dance as the "Girl in the Red Mask" in the vaudeville theatres.

"I am really scared now," Mr. Hammerstein told THE SUN reporter when he heard that Tito Ricordi was to prevent Mme. Melba and Cleofonte Campanini from taking part in "La Bohème."

"I really am scared now, but really the only thing I am worried about is not being well. If I was only perfectly well I wouldn't mind anything else."

Mr. Hammerstein goes to the new opera house every morning, but he is still very careful about the amount of work he does. Yesterday ex-Judge Dittenhoefer, who was formerly Mr. Hammerstein's attorney as well as Mr. Conried's, notified Mr. Hammerstein that his firm of Dittenhoefer, Goeber & James was going to appear for Mr. Conried in the controversy over "La Bohème." Mr. Hammerstein's interest in the dispute will be looked after by Brieger & Knauth and Nathan Vivader. Mr. Hammerstein still bases his right to give the opera on a verbal contract with George Maxwell, representative of the Ricordis in this country.

"I am going to make 'Masaniello' the principal spectacular feature of my season," Mr. Hammerstein said yesterday, "and all the scenery, which is now completed, was prepared by Telbin, who did most of the scenery for Henry Irving's productions. The eruption of Vesuvius in the last act is going to be a wonderful spectacle."

NEW THEATRE FOR BROOKLYN.

To Be Erected by the Bimbergs Near Flatbush Avenue R. R. Station.

Brooklyn is to have a new $500,000 theatre, to be erected by Myer R. Bimberg, who is widely known as "Bim the Button Man," and to be managed by his brother, B. K. Bimberg. The site will be in Flatbush avenue, near Rockwell place, close to the new station of the Long Island Railroad. The lots secured by Mr. Bimberg have a frontage of 100 feet and run back 140 feet. They cost $125,000. The cost of the building will be about $300,000. It is expected that the theatre will be ready to be opened for the next season. The building will be four stories high, constructed of steel and stone, and in many respects will be a counterpart of Bimberg's new Astor Theatre. It will have no stairs, access to the balcony and galleries being had by means of corrugated concrete runaways. It will, according to the Bimbergs, be "a Manhattan theatre erected in Brooklyn." The Long Island Railroad Company has promised, they say, to operate a special theatre train service. Mr. Bimberg has invited Brooklynites to send him some names that they think would be appropriate for the new playhouse.

CHEVALIER HERE

To Start His Joint Starring Tour With Mme. Guilbert.

Albert Chevalier, who is to make a short tour of this country with Yvette Guilbert, arrived on the steamship Campania last night. He will open in Canada next week and has been booked by Liebler & Co. for six weeks. He will give his old coster songs and two or three new ones. Chevalier said that last winter he returned to his first love and he wants to get away from the variety stage.

The Campania made a fast passage. She had fine weather all the way and went from Haunt's Rock to Sandy Hook lightship in 5 days 12 hours 43 minutes, averaging 20.94 nautical miles an hour.

Among those on board were Dr. William Seaman Bainbridge, C. W. Bonynge, Enrique Cortes, Colombian Minister to the United States; Mrs. Cortes, P. de Guzman, secretary to the Colombian Legation; Mrs. Guzman, Miss E. A. Hyde, Miss M. L. Hyde, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. La Mar, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shuman, Victor Shuman, the Rev. and Mrs. H. B. Worlryche-Whitmore and Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Young.

News of Plays and Players.

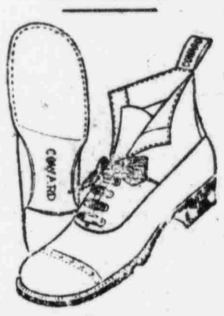
Scarano and his band of sixty-five pieces will give a concert at the Hippodrome tomorrow night.

The new Robert B. Smith-Raymond Hubbell opera, which is to have its first presentation out of town next Thursday, is not to be called "The Other Locket," as first announced, but has been named after the part to be created by Miss Katie Barry, "Mamselle Sallie," instead. In this opera both John Slavin and Miss Barry are to be featured, while others prominent in the cast are W. T. Carleton, Della Niven, Florence Quinn, Agnes Finley and Charles Mast.

"The Measure of Man," Cora Maynard's new play, which is now at the Garrick Theatre, Philadelphia, will open for an indefinite season at Weber's Theatre, commencing Thursday, October 18. The cast includes Robert Drouet, E. M. Holland, Percy Haswell and Mary Hall.

The repertoire of H. B. Irving at the Amsterdam for the week after next is announced as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday matinée and night and Saturday, a double bill, "King Rene's Daughter," and "The Lyons Mail;" Thursday, Friday and Saturday matinée, "King Charles I."

The Coward Shoe



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