OUR NEW LIBRARY DEDICATED

THE PRESIDENT, THE GOVERNOR AND THE MAYOR TAKE PART.

Services in the Rotunda of the Fine Building—John Bigelow Tells of a Talk With Tilden on the Question of Founding a Library—Open to Public To-day.

You can go to the Public Library this morning, take your choice of 1,000,000 books and read in luxurious surroundings from 9 A. M. until 10 P. M. The great marble building at Fifth avenue and Forty-second street where the Astor, Lenox, Tilden and city collections are now housed was dedicated yesterday afternoon by President Taft, Gov. Dix, Mayor Gaynor and a company of distinguished guests.

It has cost the city $9,000,000 to transform the old reservoir into a palace for readers. It has been fourteen years since the Legislature passed an act providing for the building. It took eight years and seven months to complete the library building after the cornerstone was laid. As it stands the library represents the most modern and scientific methods of arranging volumes and accomodating not only the general reader but the student in special research. And any "unobjectionable person," as the regulations say, may take advantage of these riches without cost.

President Taft came over from Washington early in the afternoon, accompanied by Attorney-General Wickersham, Senator Bacon, Major A. W. Dodd, Butt and Secretary Charles D. Hilles. They were met at the Pennsylvania station by Henry W. Taft and a committee of the library's directors and escorted to the new building. Fifth avenue and Forty-second street in the neighborhood of the library were pretty thickly lined with people who wanted a glimpse of the President, but the crowd was much smaller than the directors had looked for. More than 15,000 invitations had been sent out to the general public, but it is doubtful if 5,000 of those were presented.

In the reception room the President met the Governor, the Mayor, Archbishop Farley, Bishop Greer and others who were to have a part in the ceremony. Gov. Dix was accompanied by his secretary, Commander DeKay, who glistened in a white uniform and gold trappings. The Mayor had dispensed with personal attendants. Archbishop Farley came in his purple vestments and Bishop Greer's black was relieved by the red band of his office.

At 2 P. M. 500 who had been invited to seats in the rotunda on the Fifth avenue side were in their places. In this company one noticed Charles Dana Gibson, Dr. John H. Finley, president of the City College; the Rev. Dr. Robert Collyer, John L. Cadwalader, Henry W. Taft, Borough President George McAneny, Herman A. Metz, William R. Willcox, Rabbi Silverman, William Barclay Parsons, Herbert L. Satterlee, Bird S. Coler, the Rev. Dr. George H. Houghton, Dr. Abraham Jacobi, John Jacob Astor, De Lancey Nicoll, Paul D. Cravath, John Hone, a grandson of Mayor Philip Hone; the Rev. Dr. William T. Manning, rector of Trinity Church; Edward Lauterbach and S. S. Howland.

Presently there appeared on the marble stairs the group of speakers, with John Bigelow, president of the New York Public Library, at their head. Mr. Bigelow escorted the President to a central seat on a dais raised perhaps four feet above the floor of the rotunda. To the right and left of the President were Mr. Bigelow, the Governor, the Mayor, Bishop David H. Greer, Thomas Hastings who with his partner, the late John M. Carrère, designed the building; George L. Rives, a trustee; Senator Bacon, Morgan J. O'Brien, Archbishop Farley and Park Commissioner Charles B. Stover.

Bishop Greer made the opening prayer and then Mr. Bigelow presented George L. Rives, who read a long historical address. The library had its inception really, said Mr. Rives, in 1783, when the first of the Astors, John Jacob, came over from Germany with a few pounds in English money and seven flutes. It was he who gave $400,000 for a library. James Lenox, "a man who in every possible relation of life exhibited a strong contrast to John Jacob Astor," said Mr. Rives, founded the Lenox Library in 1870.

"And the recording angel," said Mr. Rives, "has doubtless long since placed to the credit of William M. Tweed, deceased, the fact that he introduced and procured the passge of the latter piece of legislation."

Samuel J. Tilden was the third of the founders. Like Mr Lenox, he was never married. It was in his mind, said Mr. Rives, to devote the residue of his large fortune to establish a free library and reading room in the city of New York. After his death, in 1886, about $1,000,000 was available. The move to consolidate these foundations was begun in 1892 by the Tilden trustees. In two years more the consolidation had been effected.

Thomas Hastings, the architect, produced a golden key which he handed to Park Commissioner Stover with a brief speech which contained an allusion to Mr. Carrère. Commissioner Stover gave the key to Mayor Gaynor, who in turn placed it in the hands of John Bigelow. In doing so the Mayor said:

[illegible] now my duty, I am informed, to hand the key over to the chairman of the board of trustees of this library corporation, which I do with much pleasure.

[illegible] addressed Mr. Bigelow] come down to us from former generations and can therefore attest to all of us that mental growth and moral growth in mankind are things of slow growth. We need not be astonished at that, sir, because that is the practice of God's economy applied to the whole universe. When we look about the universe to material things we see how slowly it grows and matures, how slowly even the grain of wheat matures. And when we look at this human body of ours and see how slowly it grows and matures we ought to remind ourselves that the Almighty is [illegible] roading over this world before it was fit for our use.

We have no reason to be discouraged that the growth, mental moral and material, of good things is gradual and even slow, since it is the design of the Almighty. [illegible] in each generation to do our [illegible] much to keep that growth of the human race moving forward all the [illegible] cannot do everything in one [illegible] much less in one day, as some of our good friends seem to think, but we can do a little part while we are here and leave something to be done by those, Mr. [illegible] who come after us. Otherwise [illegible] have nothing to do.

[illegible] mental agencies who bring [illegible] spiritual growth which is good [illegible] the churches, the schools, the [illegible] intelligent public press, the [illegible] of justice by the jury system [illegible] not least the diffusion of [illegible] through the public libraries. [illegible] being kept alive and always [illegible] little by little, at [illegible] day after day, finally, [illegible] bring the human race to that stage of perfect ability and perfection which is the dream of all good souls.

Mr. Bigelow, himself the next speaker, told the story of the growth of the library. He recalled a talk he had with Samuel J. Tilden concerning the wisdom of providing so much fiction for the public.

While Mr. Tilden was meditating the foundation of another public library in the city in which he had been so generously prospered he told me one day that he had just received the annual report of the Boston Public Library, and he found that about 90 per cent. of the books taken from it during the year had been works of fiction. He asked me whether it was really worth his while to devote so much or indeed any money whatever to foster such an abnormal appetite for imaginative literature. I said to him in substance that probably the first printed writing that ever made a lodgment in his mind was the reading or hearing recited or sung the melodies of "Mother Goose", that it never ocurred to him then that there was any incongruity in

Hi diddle diddle,
The cat's in the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon.

Or in the dish that ran away with the spoon; that he accepted every one of these statements with a faith that would have sustained him at the stake.

"Nonsense," as Charles Lamb very truly said, "is children's best sense." To create a genuine taste for literature every one must begin by reading what interests him, and imaginative literature is far more captivating to all people in whom a genuine taste for literature has not been formed.

Mr. Bigelow bowed to Gov. Dix, who said in the course of his brief speech that he took particular pleasure in joining in the dedication of the building because he had so recently seen the State Library go up in flame and smoke.

"And I suspect," added the Governor, "that the officers of the State Education Department will say that it is well that I should come here in order that I may have a fresh demonstration of the vastness of a public library and a lively sense of the money that is needed to lay even the foundations of a new one which may be measurably worthy of the State of New York."

The President made the last address.

It is not in the treasures of the various collections that go to make up this library that its chief value consists, wonderful as those are and much as we are indebted to the Astors and James Lenox for the money, labor and pains expended in their gathering. It is not in the number of volumes or pamphlets or manuscripts that this library stands out first in the world, for I believe, considered from that standpoint, it is only sixth or seventh the greatest collection; but it is in the facility of circulation and in the immense number of books that are distributed each year for use to the citizens and residents of New York and vicinity that this library easily takes the first rank.

The completion of this building gives outward and substantial evidence of the perfection of the project. When the story is told of how this great organization was effected it is hardly credible. The Astor Library, founded in 1849 and begun and enriched by the generosity of three generations of the Astor family, was only a library of reference, consisting of rare historical books, pamphlets and manuscripts. The Lenox Library, made possible through the generosity and infinite pains and labor and love of James Lenox, gave to this foundation a precious Biblical collection and a wonderful library of American history.

The Tilden Foundation brought 16,000 volumes of a political library and a foundation of $2,000,000. The generosity of these founders of course is much to be praised; so too the generosity of those who contributed to the New York Public Circulating Library and to the various circulating libraries that are now made part of this; so too must we applaud the generosity of Andrew Carnegie, whose munificence will provide for sixty branches in all parts of this great city. But after reading the history of those various collections and circulating libraries the fact that impresses itself upon me, that stands out in the history of the whole movement, is that in the short time since 1895 master minds have conceived the union of all these agencies into one, by which the possible benefit for the individual contained in each is now distributed and brought within the easy and beneficial use of every New Yorker.

A library which affords constant reference and reading room facilities to 1,700 people and which circulates through sixty branches its books at the rate of 5,000,000 a year accomplishes so much more in the popular dissemination of knowledge than any other library in the world that the men who conceived the plan and who had the energy, tact, patience and knowledge with which to execute it are those whom I would congratulate to-day. It is to the librarian and the trustees of those various foundations that I would convey my profound felicitations.

Archbishop Farley pronounced the benediction and the ceremony was at an end. The President, the Governor and the Mayor left at once, Mr. Taft to dine with John L. Cadwalader. He left for Washington at 12 P. M. The Governor returned to Albany at once, going immediately to the railroad station.

At 4 P. M. the Fifth avenue and Forty-second street entrances were opened for those who had received general invitations. Perhaps the brightness of the day kept many away, since only a small part of the throng expected visited the building.

IN 'FRISCO AGAIN

Previously we quoted from a commendatory letter written us by the Owners of the San Francisco Royal Building.

That letter ante-dated the performance of our contract.

The following letter was addressed to us by the Architects, after the building was finished:

"Now that the contract for the Royal Insurance Building is finished we desire to say that the speed and skill with which the building was erected and the efficient business relations maintained have co-operated to make the structure a source of satisfaction to the Royal Insurance Company and to ourselves."

This courteous and voluntary recognition of our services by Architects of such repute as Messrs. Howells & Stokes, is among the best testimony we have to offer.

THOMPSON-STARRETT COMPANY
Building Construction
Fifty-One Wall Street

New Yorkers Incorporate Mexico Development Company.

DOVER, Del., May 23.—The Yaqui Delta Land and Water Company was incorporated to-day with authority to construct railroads and telegraph lines and operate the same from points on the Gulf of California in the United States of Mexico to other points in the States of Sonora and Chihuahua. The incorporators are Robert D. Hanna and James Douglass Campbell of New York and Joseph E. Sweet of Yonkers. The capital stock is $12,000,000.

THE B. R. T. BLAMES GAYNOR

MAYOR STUCK BY THE INTERBOROUGH, SAYS COL. WILLIAMS.

And Sent the Bridge Commissioner to Suggest a Division of Subway Routes—City Hall, He Declares, Is a Branch Office of the Rapid Transit Lines.

The Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company made public last night a letter written by President T. S. Williams to William C. Morrissey, president of the Brooklyn Board of Real Estate Brokers, in answer to a letter which Mr. Morrissey addressed to Col. Williams in regard to the latter's speech at the Academy of Music meeting last week. Col. Williams's letter is as follows:

I have your inquiry, based upon recent newspaper reports of a compromise in the subway situation, as to what I meant in my remarks at the Academy of Music meeting last week when I stated that the talk of compromise seemed to emanate from "the branch office of the Interborough company further up Broadway," and located the source of such compromise rumors in the City Hall Park.

I have no hesitation in replying frankly that in this reference I had in mind Mayor Gaynor.

I had been visited that day (or the preceding day) by a gentleman who told me that I could speak to him as if he were the Mayor, and who brought to me a plan of division of subway territory which had been prepared after conference with the Mayor and the officials of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company. For the gentleman who brought this proposed compromise I have the highest respect. He is the Mayor's Commissioner of Bridges, and in ability, sound judgment and integrity I know of no public official who is his superior. We constantly have official relations with him and I have not the slightest doubt of the sincerity of his motives in assisting the Mayor in transit matters, but I told him frankly that we could not consider the subject of compromise. We had worked out with the city officials a plan which we believed to be best for the city's interests, and even though some other plan might give us more immediate financial return we could not in justice to ourselves or to the city consent to any belittling of that plan by way of compromise. I told him further that although I had no doubt of his motives and sincerity I did believe that the talk of compromise was put forth with the idea of injecting delay and confusion into the situation and that we would have none of it.

I do not mind saying to you that from the time last spring when the Mayor took the subway matter out of the hands of the Public Service Commission and began negotiations directly with Mr. Shonts, leading up to the offer of Mr. Shonts to the Mayor on July 5, 1910, the Mayor has constantly and consistently advocated conditions of rapid transit development which were consistent with no proposal before the city authorities or suggested to them except the proposal of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company in the shape in which it may have stood from time to time. In his minority report to the Board of Estimate dated January 11 last he submitted arguments which if they had prevailed would have allowed no solution except the adoption of the Interborough offer of December 5, 1910. This proposal is now regarded as so unfair to the city and so impossible of adoption by the city that it has been deemed wise by the company itself to enlarge it, although not changing its essentially wrong features.

The Mayor opposed the McAdoo proposal as a competitive system with the Interborough and is opposing the Brooklyn Rapid Transit proposal.

I dislike to speak of these matters, but inasmuch as the Brooklyn Rapid Transit proposal in its present shape realizes, far beyond any apparent possibility three months ago, the Mayor's expressed hope of a unified city transportation system I must believe that his present attitude is based upon insufficient information and knowledge of our proposal. Otherwise he would not be urging a compromise which more than anything else that has been suggested makes impossible of realization a one fare city system and establishes for an indefinite period in the future a two fare system.

I am conscious in making these statements to you (which you are at liberty to use if you desire), that I am subjecting the corporation which I represent to the possible hostility of the Mayor, not only in the immediate matter now pending before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment but in other matters which may affect the relations of the city toward the company. But we have started out in this campaign in a frank, open way. We have conducted our negotiations in the same spirit and we have sought to accomplish our purpose only by a direct plea to the intelligence and fairness of the public and, to the extent that the Mayor or any other official seeks to prevent the adoption of what we believe all fair minded and disinterested men will unhesitatingly assert is the best transportation plan now before the public, we feel compelled by the same spirit of frankness to point out the source and the dangers of compromise suggestions which can only mean delay and confusion.

We welcome open argument and criticism, but in justice to ourselves and to the hundreds of thousands of people whose hopes of transit relief have been raised by our proposal we feel that all suggestions tending to influence the result should be made in the daylight of public discussion, so that the people, as well as their representative officials, may be able to pass intelligent judgment upon the question.

We cannot and will not put ourselves before the public as advocating openly a comprehensive plan of transportation relief and at the same time be negotiating privately for the adoption of a lesser and more selfish plan. Very truly yours,

T. S. WILLIAMS,
President.

SAYS SHE TRIED TO DIE.

Girl's Story of Attempted Suicide Raises Question Concerning Man's Death.

YONKERS, N. Y., May 23.—It became known to-day that Miss Sarah Jackson, 22 years old, of 522 Saw Mill River road, who is in St. Joseph's Hospital badly burned by carbolic acid, tried to commit suicide on Saturday night and her condition is not due to poison. It was at first thought that she had been burned when a bottle containing the acid fell from a shelf.

She now says that she had a quarrel with James Keenan of 359 Walnut street and tried to drink carbolic acid in his presence as they parted at her door. He knocked the bottle from her hand, she says, and called the ambulance for her, but went away before it came.

On Sunday Keenan, who was about home in the forenoon, was found dead under the aqueduct arch in Nepperhan avenue. The Coroner decided that his death was accidental, but Keenan's mother does not agree with him.

Woman Who Couldn't Sleep Hangs Herself.

Mrs. Isabel Levy, 35 years old, of 566 Summit avenue, Jersey City, hanged herself from a banister at her home yesterday. She was found dead by her husband. Mrs. Levy had suffered from insomnia for seven months.

Fall From a Fire Escape Kills Boy.

Thomas Dorege, 5 years old, who was playing with the washing hung out on the fire escape to dry outside his mother's rooms on the third floor of 2306 First avenue, fell to the stone pavement of the back yard yesterday afternoon. He was dead when he was found.

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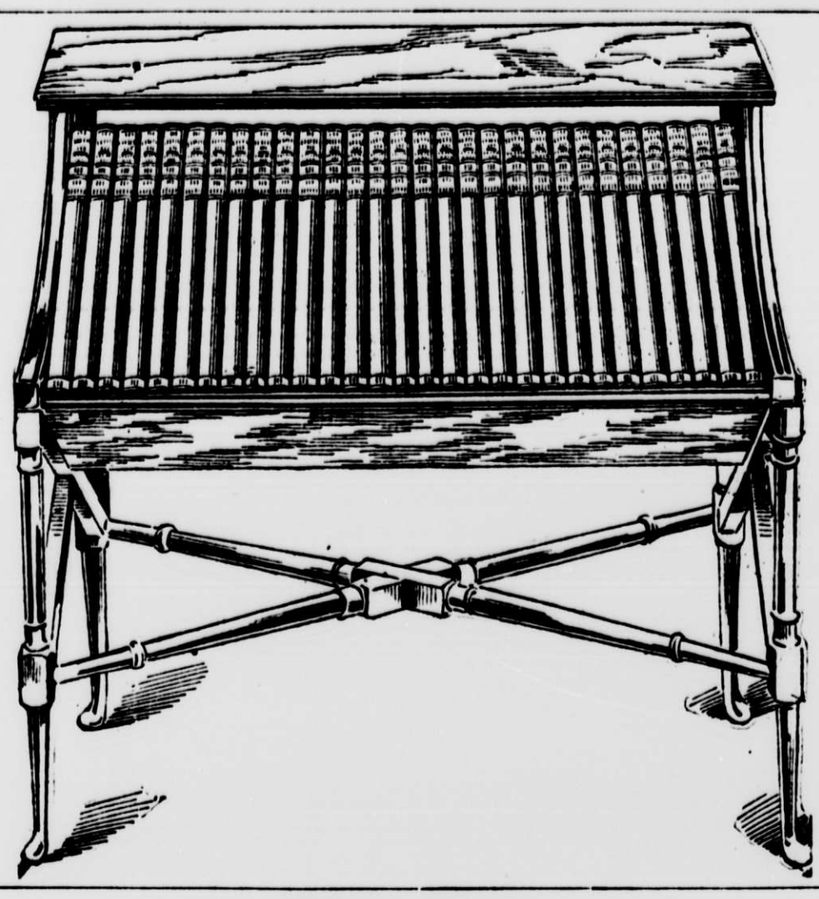

29 Inches of Space Are Given to the Sum of Human Knowledge as It Stood in 1910

The New

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(11th EDITION)

BUT 7 DAYS ARE LEFT

The first complete sets, 28 volumes of text, are now coming from the binders and heavy shipments are expected during June and July.

The Index Volume (Vol. 29), necessarily the last volume to be completed, is now going into type.

Vols. XV to XXVIII will be shipped during the next few days to those who have already received Vols. I to XIV.

Owing to an unprecedented demand for the new (11th) edition and to the magnitude of its technical production, the publishers are compelled to limit their contractual obligation in the matter of shipments entirely to orders registered by May 31. For the present no provision can be made to fill applications received after that date and no more copies will be printed or bound than are called for under the present "previous to publication" offer.

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NOTE.—Those who possess copies of previous editions of the ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA (now out of date) are requested to advise us of the fact, stating which edition they possess (giving name of publisher and number of volumes), and if they wish to purchase the new edition, they will be informed how they can dispose of their old editions at a fair valuation.

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