BROOKLYN MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

Organization of the Common Council for 1872.

First Manifesto of Mayor Powell to the People.

GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OF BROOKLYN

Her Water Works, Parks, Schools, Basins, Gas, Streets, Buildings and Public Institutions.

A BRILLIANT FUTURE IN STORE.

The Actual Debt and What Constitutes It—A Further Reduction of Taxes Promised.

A Wise Yet Liberal Economy To Be Pursued.

The Board of Aldermen met yesterday afternoon and organized for the year 1872 by the election of Jacob I. Bergen for Chairman, William G. Bishop for City Clerk, and the election of the minor officers as agreed upon in caucus by the democratic members. The annual message from Mayor Powell was received, and the usual number of copies ordered to be printed. The following is the document:—

MAYOR'S OFFICE, BROOKLYN, Jan. 8, 1872.

TO THE HONORABLE THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN:—

GENTLEMEN—We assume the duties of office at a period of great excitement in the public mind. The suspicions of the community are aroused, and the keenest scrutiny is exercised in regard to the administration of public affairs. The recent stupendous frauds that have been brought to light in the city of New York, and the enormous defalcations that have been perpetrated by government officials, have shattered the confidence of the people, and they are ready to believe that men only seek for public office for the purpose of enriching themselves at the expense of the public treasury. It therefore becomes of the first importance that we should so conduct ourselves in our respective spheres that the taxpayers of the city shall have no reasonable ground of complaint, and that at the close of our stewardship we may deserve and receive the approbation of the public.

DUTIES OF THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE.

The duties we are called upon to perform are in no sense of a partisan character, and it should be our aim to discharge them in such a manner as to secure to the whole people the greatest amount of benefit at the lowest possible cost. It ought to be remembered, however, that large cities require greater expenditures in proportion than smaller ones, because large cities betoken wealth, and wealth begets extravagance and luxury, both public and private. Individuals when in humble circumstances save and economize in order to better their condition; but as prosperity increases and wealth flows in they indulge in and surround themselves with all the appliances that art and ingenuity invent to render life easy, and to soften the rigors of everyday existence. And so with communities; while populations are sparse and poor, low tolls serve to provide the means of sustenance to the government, but with increasing numbers and wealth new wants are developed. One of the first of these is an extended system of street grading and paving. The danger of travel by night next suggests the necessity of providing light for the public thoroughfares. Next, as populations grow, the supply of water from wells and pumps is found to be inadequate to the wants of the people, and new sources of supply are to be sought from streams and brooks of the surrounding country. This once secured at great cost and labor, it is soon found that unless a system of sewerage is adopted a large share of the benefit to be derived from an ample water supply will be lost, and hence this becomes a necessity.

Education for the young also becomes a subject of prime importance, and where the duty of furnishing it is assumed by the public authorities it involves an enormous outlay for the purchase of school sites and the erection of buildings and for the pay of school officers and teachers.

The danger of conflagration also requires the establishment of a fire department, and to make it efficient it must be composed of the best material, both as to men and the mechanical appliances.

For the preservation of the public peace and maintenance of order a police force is a necessity in all large cities, and to render it efficient and productive of the intended results a most rigid and soldierly discipline must be enforced.

In all large cities public parks are regarded as an important provision for the health and recreation of the people, and our own city, feeling the force of this provision, has secured in Prospect and other minor parks all that can be desired in this respect. The cost has been large, and some further outlay will be required to bring them to completion; but there is reason to suppose that the increased value of property consequent on their establishment will go very far towards paying their cost.

Brooklyn has had many difficulties to contend with in acquiring anything like a distinctive character in consequence of its immediate vicinity to the city of New York; but, thanks to the enterprise and energy of some of our citizens, these difficulties have been overcome, and our people are now enabled to find amusement and recreation within our own boundaries, and I trust that in the future these wants will continually be supplied as they arise, that our citizens may feel a local pride in the place of their abode.

OUR CITY MUST CONTINUE TO GROW,

and to what extent no one can venture to predict if a liberal spirit shall prevail in securing all the improvements and conveniences the people require. New York is limited in its capacity for the accommodation of its population, and in less than half a century from this period the extension of its business will drive out the population, who will be compelled to seek a residence elsewhere, and if we are wise and prudent in the conduct of our affairs they may readily be attracted here and made to swell our population, so that in the future we may be the first in numbers on this Continent.

One of the most important means to this end is the securing of a more rapid mode of transit to the distant parts of the city and the surrounding country. Street railroads have served an excellent purpose, and have aided materially in increasing the growth of the city, and will continue to be a source of convenience to many, but the time has arrived when the subject of increased facilities ought to engage public attention. We ought, by means of an underground railroad or some other equally feasible project, to be prepared to transport passengers from the ferry to East New York in ten or fifteen minutes. This would serve to concentrate all the lines of road through the island at this point, and thereby largely benefit the city. This end accomplished, and the East River Bridge completed, we shall have arrived at a most important point in our history.

We already have an efficient and well-disciplined body of police, as the general quiet and good order attest. The force is small, and the beats of the patrolmen extend over large extents of territory, but I do not think it judicious at the present time to increase it, but rather by increased vigilance to increase its efficiency. The force at present consists of one chief, ten captains, forty-nine sergeants, twenty-two roundsmen, 808 patrolmen, thirty-nine detailed to special duty, and twenty-six doormen, making in all 950 men. The amount appropriated for the support of this department for the past year was $612,898. This sum has been found sufficient, notwithstanding the pay of the captains was increased by the last Legislature to the extent in the aggregate of $5,000, and in addition to this the change of headquarters involved an increased expenditure for rent, and a further sum of $7,800 expended in fitting it up for use, and there yet remains an unexpended balance of the appropriation amounting to about $14,000.

The paid Fire Department has proved a most gratifying success, and when it is considered that the new system has been in operation but a short time, it is a matter of surprise that its efficiency and discipline are so perfect, and I cannot refrain from saying that the Commissioners are entitled to great credit for their zeal and energy in producing these results.

Our system of public education has grown to enormous proportions, and seems to give satisfaction to a majority of the people. There is no more important interest confided to any branch of the city government than that placed in charge of the Board of Education. They control and expend large amounts of money, and are responsible in a measure for the future welfare of the rising generation, and it is to be hoped that wisdom may prevail in their councils, to the end that they may secure to all the utmost educational benefit.

THE WATER SUPPLY

is another subject of vital importance to our people. Since its introduction, in 1859, we have had an unfailing supply of that element, of the greatest purity, and there is no reason to suppose that in the future we shall not be able to secure enough to meet the public want, however large. The original cost of the water works, under contract with H. S. Wells & Co., was $4,696,495. This included the six ponds and two reservoirs, three steam engines, twelve miles of brick conduit, with a minimum supply of 20,000,000 gallons daily, and capacity of conduit equal to the delivery of 40,000,000; also 120 miles of distribution pipe of all sizes, together with 689 stopcocks and 800 hydrants. This contract was faithfully fulfilled, and there is probably no instance in the history of the construction of public works where a more exact compliance with the terms of the contract were required, and where they were more faithfully fulfilled. Since the completion of the original contract, during the year 1859, and up to and including 1870, there has been added 1,200 feet of four feet main and 18½ miles of distribution pipe, 628 stopcocks and 1,189 hydrants; also an additional steam engine capable of lifting 15,000,000 gallons in twenty-four hours. These, together with extensive repairs, new boilers, coal sheds and other unavoidable expenditures, serve to account for the cost of the works above the original contract price.

It was found to be indispensable upon the introduction of water that a system of sewerage should be devised and put in operation, and by the aid of Colonel Adams a plan was perfected and has proved a perfect success, and is followed to the present time, greatly to the benefit of the property of our citizens, besides saving much more than its cost in the building of cisterns and cesspools, which were necessary before its adoption.

OUR PUBLIC PARKS

next claim attention. These partake more of the character of luxuries than necessities. Nevertheless, the people of all large cities regard them as conducive to their comfort and recreation, and voluntarily subject themselves to the expense of establishing and maintaining them. The people have secured to Brooklyn a beautiful location in this respect, and, I believe, are well satisfied with the attainment. Prospect Park has an area of 502 acres lying west of Flatbush avenue and 117 acres on the east side thereof. That on the west side has been improved and beautified in a manner to excite the pride and admiration of the people, and is the daily resort of thousands of all classes of the population. Next we have the City Park, near the Navy Yard, containing seven and a half acres. This, originally a swamp, was filled up many years since and beautified by the city, and is now the resort of many of the poorer classes, and affords recreation to many who have very few resources of that character within their own private means. Next we have the City Hall Park, containing one and a half acres, upon which stands the City Hall. Again, we have Tompkins Park, containing seven and three-quarter acres, which, under the improving care of the Commissioners, is becoming an attractive spot, and will, no doubt, become a great resort of the people in the neighborhood and others. Carroll Park also, one and eight-tenths of an acre, affords a pleasant resort for the people of South Brooklyn, and is frequented largely by the children and their attendants. Finally, there is Washington Park, with an area of thirty and one-sixth acres, which is so far advanced toward completion as to make it one of the most attractive points in the city, and the appreciation of the people is proved by the fact that hundreds of them daily resort there in pleasant weather to spend their leisure hours.

THE WALLABOUT BAY IMPROVEMENT

and the Kent avenue basin are works of great magnitude and value to the city; first, in shortening the distance between the Eastern and Western Districts five-eighths of a mile by the construction of Washington avenue over the salt marsh, a distance of 1,982 feet, and paving it with a substantial Belgian pavement; second, in constructing ten substantial piers, each 750 feet long, making extensive basins of slips, capable of accommodating a large number of vessels.

The Kent avenue basin extends along the shores of the creek from Washington avenue to Hewes street, a distance of 1,550 feet, including a strip of land sixty feet wide on the south side for the purposes of a street. These improvements add greatly to the water front of the city, and have already vastly increased the traffic in that locality. While the only landing place was at the foot of Clinton avenue, the number of cargoes landed there in the course of the year were numbered by the score. We now find that the number of vessels occupying docks and discharging cargoes from May 1 to December 25, 1871, was in the aggregate 2,443. This business will continue to increase, and a very few years will prove the utility and value of these improvements

I think it would be wise policy on the part of the city to make an effort to secure from the United States government a grant of the land lying between Washington avenue and Nyerson street and Flushing avenue and the water. It, in any event, can be of but little value to the government, but in time would be made of immense value to the city; and it is probable that an equivalent could be found which would satisfy the authorities at Washington without requiring the outlay of money on the part of the city.

The departments before mentioned and the improvements named, together with the salaries of city officials and the lighting of the streets and public buildings, constitute the main burdens of the taxpayers, and I may here say that notwithstanding the late reduction in the price of gas consumed by the city I am convinced that a further reduction could be made, still leaving a fair margin of profit to the gas companies.

The debt of the city, as it now stands, is as follows, made up to the 8th of December, and I fully believe is a true exhibit of the entire obligations of every kind for which we are holden:—

BONDS ISSUED FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND NOW OUTSTANDING.

Per cent. Name.	Amount.
6—City Hall Loan	$68,000
6—Debt of Williamsburg Loan	150,000
6—Permanent Water Loan	8,924,000
7—Brooklyn Local Improvement Loan	213,000
7—Soldiers' Aid Fund Loan	552,000
6—Mount Prospect Square Loan	10,000
7—National Guard and Volunteer Firemen's Loan	25,000
6—Williamsburg Local Improvement Loan	139,000
6—Williamsburg Liability Loan	92,000
6—National Guard Loan	22,000
6 and 7—Public Park Loan	3,258,000
7—Wallabout Bay Improvement Loan	771,000
7—Kent Avenue Basin Loan	195,000
7—New York Bridge Loan	1,800,000
Total	$21,389,000
Less amount in Sinking Fund	1,704,186
Total	$19,584,814

BONDS ISSUED ON ACCOUNT OF LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS AND NOW OUTSTANDING.

6—Atlantic Avenue Improvement	$40,000
6—Third Street Improvement	502,000
6 and 7—Fourth Avenue Improvement	568,000
7—Gowanus Canal Improvement	375,000
7—Bushwick Avenue Improvement	321,000
7—Bedford Avenue Improvement	278,000
7—Grand Street Improvement	14,000
7—South Seventh Street Improvement	306,000
7—Union Street Improvement	325,000
7—Vanderbilt Avenue Improvement	148,000
7—Sewerage Bonds, special	200,000
7—Sewerage Bonds (limited)	2,000,000
7—Assessment Fund Bonds	2,364,405
7—Assessment Fund Bonds, regrading and repaving	2,315,000
Total	$9,557,405

CERTIFICATES.

7—Certificates purchase of school sites, payable January 1, 1872	$90,000
7—Tax certificates of indebtedness, payable January and April 1, 1872	1,150,000
7—Certificates repairing breaks in streets, payable January 1, 1872	1,700
7—Fourth avenue certificates, payable January 1, 1872	3,851
7—Fire Department deficiencies, payable January 1, 1872	7,430
7—Gas bill deficiencies, payable January 1, 1872	172,065
7—Willoughby avenue certificates, payable January 1, 1872	2,500
7—Chicago Relief Fund, payable December 1, 1872	100,000
Total	$1,527,546

RECAPITULATION.

Public improvement bonds	$19,584,814
Local improvement bonds	9,557,405
Certificates	1,527,546
Total	$30,669,768

The last mentioned item of $1,527,546, under the head of "certificates," will be paid in part by money now in the treasury. Another part represents unpaid taxes, which sum will be reimbursed to the treasury when the taxes are paid. The last item under the head of "Chicago Relief Fund" will have to be provided for in the future by authority of law.

The second statement, under the head of "bonds issued for local improvements and now outstanding," amounting to $9,557,405, were issued by the city in behalf of local improvements, and simply amount to an endorsement guaranteeing their final payment, but the lien upon the property benefited by the loan is as perfect as though held under a mortgage, and will finally be paid, both principal and interest, by assessment upon the property, and cannot therefore be regarded as a part of the city debt proper.

We then come to the real statement of the indebtedness of the city, under the head as above of "bonds issued for public improvements and now outstanding." This constitutes our real burden and must be met by a tax upon the whole city for the payment of both principal and interest, but we shall find a partial relief from this burden in the law which authorizes an assessment for benefit upon the lands surrounding Prospect Park. This assessment has been levied and will produce $3,000,000, reducing to that extent the general burden of the city. As per statement above, the permanent debt of the city appears to be $19,584,814. Deduct from this, $3,000,000 to be realized from assessment around the Park and

THE DEBT WILL BE REDUCED

to $16,584,814. Even this is a large amount, and it will require great care and prudence, in view of other impending burdens; yet I firmly believe that, unless some overwhelming disaster overtakes us, we shall be able to perfect all the work we have before us without injury to the growth and prosperity of the city and without any increase in the rates of taxation.

Having presented to you a fair exhibit of the amount of our indebtedness, with the understanding that our only means of paying it is by a direct tax on the property of the people (excepting the water debt, that department being self-sustaining), I think it is fair to show what we possess in the shape of property and interests to represent that debt; and, after a careful estimate of its value, I find the following result:—

Board of Education, school houses and sites	$2,500,000
City Hall and ground, 1¼ acre	700,000
City Park, near Navy Yard, 7½ acres	150,000
Tompkins Park, 7¾ acres	250,000
Carroll Park, 1 8-10 acre	250,000
Washington Park, 30 1-6 acres	1,500,000
Armory and Hall, North Second and Fourth sts.	50,000
Armory, corner Cranberry and Henry streets	35,000
Police Department, station houses	218,000
Fire Commissioners, engine houses, &c	481,000
Truant Home School, Jamaica road	75,000
City Market property, James street	50,000
The Wallabout Improvement	771,000
Kent avenue basin	195,000
Invested in the East River Bridge	1,800,000
The Water Works	8,924,000
Prospect Park, 619 acres	8,238,000
Total	$26,220,000

These figures, which are believed to represent a fair valuation of the property, will show the purposes for which money has been expended in the past; and the two items which constitute the bulk of the debt—viz., Prospect Park and the Water Works—are so well approved that it is doubtful if any considerable number of taxpayers could be found who would be willing to dispense with them if the whole amount of their cost could be returned to the public treasury.

In making a statement to you of the amount of the city indebtedness it would not be proper to leave out of the account that which has been incurred by the county, because in reality about nineteen-twentieths of it falls upon the city.

THE DEBT OF THE COUNTY OF KINGS

at this date amounts to $3,733,712. Of this sum more than two-thirds of the whole amount was incurred for war purposes during the rebellion under the various bounty and enlistment acts enacted for the purpose of inducing enlistments and providing for the families of the absent. I have no doubt that nine-tenths of this money was unnecessarily expended, but we can do nothing now to remedy that.

The figures representing the county debt are as follows:—

Lunatic Asylum Loan	$20,000
Court House Loan	100,000
Court House Loan	100,000
Court House Loan	400,000
Lunatic Asylum Extension	135,000
Nursery Improvement Extension	75,000
Parade Ground Improvement Extension	175,000
Almshouse Improvement Extension	75,000
War Enlistment Loan	1,497,000
War Enlistment Loan	500,000
Volunteer and Relief Loan	265,000
Volunteer and Relief Loan	160,000
Certificates of Indebtedness	182,712
Total	$3,733,712
Deduct one-twentieth, being the share of the county towns	186,685
And the balance properly chargeable to the city is	*$3,547,027
Add to this the debt of the city proper	16,584,814
As before estimated, the total is	$20,131,841
Now if we deduct the Water Loan	8,924,000

the interest on which is paid from water rates and other sources of income, we find the balance to be | $11,207,841 |

which must be paid by direct taxation until both principal and interest are paid.

The property owned by the county is as follows, without attempting to estimate its value in money:—Court House and grounds, County Jail, Raymond street, Morgue; Canton street; Armory, Eastern District; Parade ground, forty acres; Penitentiary and grounds, County Farm, seventy-five to eighty acres; Almshouse building, Nursery building, Hospital building, Lunatic Asylum, Smallpox Hospital and Workhouse.

This property is of immense value, but the wants that compelled the purchase of it being such as always exist it can be made available only for the purposes for which it was intended.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

I learn by a report from the Street Commissioner's Office that during the year 1871 there were eleven miles of graded and paved streets completed and the assessments therefor are now in the process of collection. There have also been ten miles of graded and paved streets completed, the assessment rolls for which are now in preparation for confirmation, and there is now under contract for grading and paving seventeen miles of streets, the most of which will be completed during the year 1872. There has also been laid 241,287 square feet of flagging, the assessment for which has been confirmed, and 296,911 feet, the assessment for which is in preparation for confirmation. There has also during the past year been 10,167 running feet of fence erected to enclose cemetery property, and altogether, during the same time, 1,944 gas lamps and posts have been set. The activity of work in this department proves the rapid and steady growth of the city, and augurs well for its future.

From information derived from the Police Department I learn that the number of buildings erected during the past year in various parts of the city amount in the aggregate to 2,245, classified as follows:—Those built of brick, 1,074; of stone, 476, and of frame, 1,016. Averaging each building at the moderate cost of $2,000, we find an increase in the taxable property of the city amounting to $5,190,000. These improvements have been made in every ward of the city, and most of them are of a substantial character.

The taxpayers of this city are already aware that the taxes have been considerably increased, and much satisfaction has thereupon been felt and expressed. The general stagnation of business and the increasing difficulty on the part of the people to meet the demands of the city on their property rendered this reduction imperative, and as that stagnation still continues our efforts should all be directed towards keeping them at the present rate, and to secure a further reduction if possible.

Withal, our great public works must not be allowed to languish or suffer. Brooklyn has grown to be a great city, and every year adds to that growth; and while there are seasons of dulness, in which the interests of real estate seriously suffer, our progress must still be forward, and it behooves those who have charge of the government of the city to exercise a wise yet liberal economy to the end that such progress made be assured.

S. S. POWELL, Mayor.

BROOKLYN REFORM.

The Work of Fixing Up a New Charter Progressing.

The Academy or Reform Committee of Seventy-five met again last night for the purpose of devising the best plan of a charter for the city of Brooklyn. Heretofore the problem of providing a chart of government for that city has puzzled the committee exceedingly. The plans offered have been so numerous and so extraordinarily at variance with each other that harmonious accord appeared almost hopeless. The committee is now, however, hopefully looking forward to a period when a mutual agreement will be had upon the vexed question of the best form of municipal government. Mr. Franklin Woodruff occupied the chair. The first business was to take up the section relating to the Board of Education, which provides that in the year 1872 the Board shall be reduced to one member from each district, and appointed by the Mayor. This was finally laid on the table.

A resolution, which was adopted, was offered by Mr. Clape, to the effect that the Senators and Assemblymen be requested to use their influence to obtain such legislation as would require the present Board of Assessors to make an equitable and uniform systematic valuation of the real estate of the citizens of the State, and that such valuation ought to be at its full marketable value, determined either by sales of the property specified within three years of the time of valuation of such contiguous property as would enable them to form an accurate judgment.

The subjoined resolution was then offered:—

Resolved, That this committee request the Senators and members of Assembly representing the city of Brooklyn to oppose and vote against all acts creating metropolitan commissions, and if necessary to sustain all vetoes of the Executive of the State against such acts.

The resolution was laid on the table on motion of Mr. Barnes, who thought that the committee would be transcending its duty in passing such a resolution.

It was suggested that the portion of the charter, as passed, which enables the Aldermen and Mayor to fix their own salaries be reconsidered. Lost.

Mr. BARNES moved that the Mayor serve without compensation. Lost.

Alderman RICHARDSON remarked that Brooklyn never had so fine a Common Council as when Aldermen served without pay. He therefore moved that they receive no compensation for their services.

Mr. HUNTER said he was unwilling to reconsider every night that which was done the night before.

Mr. GOODRICH said, in the course of a discussion on the propriety of concluding the charter business, that the argument must necessarily be terminated on Monday evening next, as the whole matter would then be referred back to the Committe for final action.

THE PATERSON POISONING CASE.

A New Phase of the Tragedy—Libbie Garrabrant Develops Another Theory—She "Peaches" on Her Lover, Van Winkle Bogert, and Says that He Committed the Murder—Bogert Arrested, but Denies the Charge.

The investigation of the alleged poisoning of Ransom F. Burroughs by his young mistress, Libbie Garrabrant, was taken up by the Grand Jury yesterday morning and the case was before them all day. The proceedings of the Grand Inquest are considered secret, but a few facts have leaked out. The most important development, however, was a statement that Libbie made yesterday to Mayor Tuttle, who had been retained by Libbie's father as her counsel. In this statement, which she reiterated to other persons during the day, Libbie charges the young man, Van Winkle Bogert (who was engaged to be married to her), with being the author of the crime. Libbie has made so many statements that it is doubtful how much dependence is to be put in her last story. It is not official, but the story she made to her counsel is, in effect, as follows:—

I was at Van Winkle Bogert's brother's place (at Paramus) from the day before Thanksgiving till Friday, the day after. Van Winkle Bogert came to see me on Sunday and on Tuesday. The latter day he sent me to buy him some "dry arsenic" to poison rats, which I did. Burroughs returned home that evening about seven o'clock. He asked to have some rice pudding for supper, which I made for him, and put it on three saucers on the table. I went out for a pail of water, and when I came back we three (Burroughs, Van Winkle Bogert and myself) sat down to the table. Soon after Burroughs ate his pudding he complained of feeling sick; but he got up and went for two pails of coal. On the stairs he appeared to feel faint, but I caught him. He vomited a great deal then. While Burroughs was out I asked Bogert if he had not put some arsenic in

BURROUGHS' PUDDING.

He said he had. I asked him what he did it for. He said he wanted to get that bedroom set and he was bound to have it. He had been talking with Burroughs a good while about it, but Burroughs wanted more for it than Bogert would give. Burroughs was very sick, and drank a great deal of water, as much as a pailful, that night, which Bogert handed him, together with everything else he asked for, as they slept together that night. I had to get up in the middle of the night and go to the pump for more water. The next day I was going for a doctor, but before I went Burroughs told me I needn't. He died on Sunday, December 10, the date of the letter found in his pocket. I was present when he died. He crawled on his hands and knees from the bed in the front room to the chair on which his body was found. I put the note in Burroughs' pocket. Bogert told me what to write, and, indeed, he was going at first to write the note himself, but afterwards got me to do it. Bogert never went into the room but once after Burroughs died. He never said a word about it afterwards; neither of us spoke about it. I liked "Wink" (*i. e.*, Van Winkle Bogert), and I made up my mind to take all the blame and be hung for it if anybody was. But when I heard how Bogert had lied I made up my mind to "blow" on him. It was all I could do to hold in the last time I was before the Coroner; but I thought best to tell my lawyer all about it. I have lied all the while to save Bogert, but after his going back on me so I will not lie for him any more.

BOGERT WAS ARRESTED

promptly yesterday by order of the County Prosecutor, Mr. John Hopper, and placed in close confinement to await the action of the Grand Jury. He denies the charge made against him by Libbie in the most emphatic manner. After all the stories Libbie has told there are some grave doubts about her veracity in the present instance, but the general impression is that her last story is correct, as she was known to be engaged to Bogert, and from her peculiar nature she would have suffered death rather than have implicated him, had he not proven false to her in order to save himself.

PROF. DORSMUS,

who made the chemical analysis of Burroughs' stomach, was on the stand yesterday afternoon before the Grand Jury. He said that in the tissues of the stomach and intestines were found unmistakable traces of metallic arsenic. There is no doubt about it.

Mr. Hopper, the District Attorney, requested the reporters not to publish any of the above statements until the result of the examination of Libbie before the Grand Jury was known; but the Paterson *Press* of last night having disregarded the request and given the affair publicity, this matter becomes public property. It will probably take several days further to complete the investigation by the Grand Jury, and then the matter will probably go at once before the Court.

ANOTHER MURDER IN JERSEY.

Information was received yesterday in Newton, Sussex county, N. J., that a Mr. David Everman was murdered near Hamburg, in the same county. Newton is seventy miles from New York. It was not ascertained who the murderer is.

THE TRUTH AT LAST.

The Treasurer of Ulster County Not a Defaulter—He Demands an Investigation—The Report of the Committee.

For some time past rumors have been rife that John C. Brodhead, Treasurer of Ulster county, was a defaulter in a large sum. It now appears that these reports had their origin in personal animosity. The facts are as follows:—After the late election a communication signed by "A Taxpayer" was published in one of the county papers calling for an investigation of the Treasurer's accounts; and upon the assembling of the Board of Supervisors a petition was presented asking for the appointment of a committee of investigation. The Board and petitioners being politically opposed to Mr. Brodhead, it was granted. The Treasurer had for some time been dangerously ill, and while the investigation was in progress he was unconscious, and, consequently, unable to meet with them and protect his interests. The report made was incomplete, and reflected harshly upon him. On the 1st of January Mr. Brodhead, still in poor health, went before the Board and made the following statement:—

Last Friday I left my house for the first, after a severe illness of over two months, and at once made a thorough examination of my accounts. I find that the committee have made a number of serious mistakes, doing me great injustice. I now ask that the Board authorize the Treasurer's Committee to make a thorough and sweeping investigation of my accounts, confident that they will find them correct in every particular.

The committee was empowered to do so, and reported last week. From their report it appears there was due from Mr. Brodhead $904,609 73, for which that gentleman exhibited vouchers for $814,773 05, and securities for nearly double the amount of the balance due. The whole movement from beginning to end bears the impress of persecution, and looks more like an attempt to crush a political opponent than an effort at reform. The report that Mr. Brodhead's bondsmen have been prosecuted is likewise incorrect.

THE MEAGHER SUICIDE.

Coroner Keenan yesterday took testimony in the case of Thomas Meagher, late an officer of the Broadway squad, who died from a pistol shot wound of the head inflicted by himself last Friday night, at his boarding house, 103 East Twenty-eighth street. No new facts of importance other than those heretofore published in the HERALD were elicited. From the evidence of those who saw deceased last there remains scarcely a doubt that Meagher was out of his mind. The case is not yet concluded, and was postponed indefinitely, although there seems to be no reason for doing so.

THE CUSTOM HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Four Hours' Infliction of Hearsay and General Rumor.

How Frank Howe Suggested Fixing Things for the Government for $50,000.

THE SORROWS OF AN IMPORTING FIRM.

Outrageous Abuses of Liberty by the Special Agents of the Treasury.

"ON THE LAY" FOR FIVE WEEKS.

AT LAST—NAMES AND DATES!

The Custom House Committee again met yesterday morning at the Astor House. There was a much better attendance of the general public, and more interest is beginning to be manifested in the proceedings of the committee as it becomes plain that the abuses of the Custom House are to be thoroughly exposed, in spite of the efforts of one or two of the investigating Senators to cover them up and excuse them. Yesterday's proceedings were for the first four hours, however, insufferably dull, that portion of the limited time of the committee being devoted to the examination of a "purely hearsay" witness. This was Mr. Whitelaw Reid, who, having been recalled, proceeded, in accordance with the previous instruction of the committee, to detail the various sources of the *Tribune* general articles on the Custom House vampires. He reiterated the former statements of Mr. Greeley, and, in regard to recent political matters, said:—

I was at the Convention at Syracuse; Mr. Thomas Murphy, Collector; General P. H. Jones, Postmaster; A. B. Cornell, Surveyor; A. H. Laflin, Naval Officer; G. H. Sharpe, United States Marshal, and James Terwilliger were there and took an active part in the Convention; Mr. Murphy was, perhaps, more quiet than the rest in the Convention; F. E. Dutcher, E. D. Mellish, J. J. O'Brien, W. Byrnes, H. Freedsom, J. Dillon, J. Duval, L. Jones, W. C. Cole and a number of other Custom House employés were also there; we always suppose that the leading officers of the government pay the expenses of delegates, reimbursing themselves by assessments, perhaps; Mr. Murphy once told me, however, that the assessments were purely voluntary; I laughed at him, and we both laughed together over the voluntary character of the contribution; about the general order business I know but little; Mr. Lindsay told me once that Colonel Leet had informed him that, instead of spending $8,000 out of his general order business, he spent three times as much and laid up $50,000 or $60,000 a year; in regard to blackmailing by the special agents, I believe the smaller houses are much more liable to extortion than the large houses, such, for instance, as A. T. Stewart's; in cases of compromise it is very hard for the papers to get the news of settlement, because the cases are heard in Chambers and the records are refused to the reporters; it is an accepted fact that inspectors on steamships take money from passengers for passing baggage; the assessments for political purposes in the leading State campaign I have heard stated at two per cent; for the character of the service required I doubt whether the salaries of many officers are now high enough; I think, however, that by legal fees it is possible for some of the subordinate officers to get very large incomes; an applicant for an inspector's office offered me $500 if I could get a three line letter from Mr. Greeley recommending him for the place; the pay of an inspector is $4 a day; it is generally understood that the salary by no means represents the incomes secured; in regard to the use of the patronage of the Custom House for political purposes, I may say that Mr. Murphy himself told me, soon after he came into office, that he intended to use the Custom House patronage to harmonize the party in the city and State; I suppose "to harmonize" meant to bring over all to one side.

Thomas J. Hoyt sworn—Am an importer of irons, steels and metals; the firm of which I am a member, Naylor & Co., have been in business seventy-five years—forty years in this city; we have suffered from the action of the special agents of the Treasury; our business with the United States customs amounts to millions annually; we have never had more than a couple of disputes in regard to customs; on the 7th of September our counting house was entered by a deputy marshal, who forthwith threatened to remove our books and papers and all they could lay their hands on—telegrams, private papers and even papers relating to current business of the day, not stopping short of private portfolios; this was done under a warrant of the United States District Judge, on the affidavit of George Brown, Treasury Special Agent, to the effect that we had undervalued the steel rails and fish plates that we imported to the extent of at least ten per cent; we claim that George Brown did not take any pains to find out the truth in this matter, and that, further, he showed himself conspicuously ignorant of the nature of the steel rail trade; I think this because a comparison of our invoices of steel rails with those of importers of other steel rails would have shown that they were at least as high or even higher; the finding out of the duty on steel rails and fish plates would have been very easily made had the proper inquiries been instituted; the usual mode of procedure is when anything of this kind occurs, that informal charges are made to the Collector and the proofs are verified by him or his deputy; then the Collector sends a letter to the District Attorney, asking for a warrant; such a warrant, in our case, Mr. Murphy and his deputy assure us was never made; by thus avoiding the customary channels of action the surest available means were taken to get matters into such a position as to result in a compromise; rather than permit our books and papers to be taken away we allowed the examiners to examine into the matter in our office, giving them the assistance of our clerks and one of our partners; after three weeks' examination we offered to take the burden of proof upon ourselves if they would state their charges; we endured their presence for two weeks more, making in all five weeks, during which our business was so interrupted that it would be impossible to estimate the loss to us; independent of the costs for counsel fees our pecuniary losses by this practical suspension of our business for five weeks amounted to a very great sum, and that we were subjected to a very much greater loss than the government could have sustained even if Mr. Brown's view of our business should prevail; it would have been a much more politic course for us to have paid $50,000 or $100,000 even and have avoided the injuries resulting from this proceeding; during this examination the examiners were far from confining themselves to an examination of the charges in the warrant; they extended their inquiries to all parts of our business from 1864 to the date of the examination now going on, thus prolonging the examination with the view, as we claim, of forcing a compromise; after a report had been called for by the Secretary of the Treasury the report was postponed, and when a positive time for it had been fixed, and when Colonel Howe had agreed to call at our office and read the report, instead of coming himself he sent a note, instructing the examiners to examine the sale and the private drawers of the partners, on the ground that they might contain evidence against us; while this was going on one of the examiners whispered us that we had better see Colonel Howe; on seeing Colonel Howe he stated to me that in his opinion there had been some irregularities on the part of our firm (Naylor & Co.) in the matter of fish plates, and exhibited a paper which showed that Naylor & Co. owed the government $84,000, but that there was a way to fix the matter and save the firm and himself all further trouble, and that this was by a compromise; Colonel Howe said that he was prepared to settle the matter for $50,000, which we could send to him or to the District Attorney, and that if this was paid he would guarantee us from all similar seizures from the government officials, which offer we regard as further evidence of an attempt to threaten us into a compromise; such a proposition we never contemplated for a moment; we then made application to the District Court to require Mr. George Brown to show cause why the examiners should not cease their operations, and an order to that effect was issued; on the following Saturday the District Attorney applied for a postponement, which was granted on the condition that the examination should cease; soon afterwards the Secretary of the Treasury took charge of the matter and the complaint was dismissed.

The witness then submitted papers, letters and affidavits in substantiation of his statements.

On cross-examination by the committee the witness further said:—Last year our business amounted to $12,000,000; I personally represented this case to the Secretary of the Treasury three times; the first time he said there must be a mistake about it in some way, and that he had been told by Colonel Howe that houses in New York were importing steel rails as iron; he said that there must be something else than a question of undervaluation involved; he gave me the impression that if it were simply a case of undervaluation he thought it ought at once to be dismissed; steel rails are so well known an article of commerce that undervaluation is simply impossible; our rivals in business, if they found us gaining an undue advantage over them, would expose us; have never ascertained who this Mr. George Brown was; have seen him often; he was about fifty-five years of age; do not know the nature of his former pursuits; during the time of the occupation of our store the demeanor of the men was at first very overbearing; they smoked cigars and kept their hats on and seized all the private papers, saying, "We want all these things," and acting generally in the roughest way imaginable; one of them claimed and exercised the privilege of reading the begining of all private letters, on the ground that they wanted to see if they contained anything about steel rails; the name of the inspector who took me aside and advised me to go to Mr. Howe was Mr. Brush.

Q. Did this case excite much indignation among your business friends? A. We kept it as quiet as possible, out of shame and mortification; when we had an account paid we had to go in and ask permission from the men in charge; at times they condescended to be civil to us; we have heard of similar cases; I think other houses of respectability have suffered in the same way; suppose a house of smaller means had been subjected to a similar trial I think it would have injured their credit so far that it would very likely have broken them down; I have heard of cases like this where innocent parties have submitted to the demands made upon them; when Colonel Howe's letter instructing the officers to open our sale came, we demurred, and said that we declined to allow them to do so; if the Secretary of the Treasury would send on a person of respectability we said we should be willing to have an examination, but we would not allow Colonel Howe's men to make the search; we locked up the sale, and while the dispute was pending Mr. Brush called us aside and proposed to us to see Colonel Howe; I think the agents had no real power to open our safe, because Brush turned aside, when it came to a point, and said, "Well, I am not going to render myself liable by bursting open the safe;" the safe was afterwards examined by Mr. Clarke, the secretary to the Secretary of the Treasury; I think the law in regard to these special agents of the Treasury is a bad one, and I never heard of its having resulted in good.

Theodore Dreyer, sworn—Am a partner of Naylor & Co.; am familiar with its business; have heard and confirm the testimony of Mr. Hoyt.

Noah Davis sworn—Am United States District Attorney for the Southern district; these applications for a warrant are made on affidavits, the character of which is prescribed by statute; in this case the warrant was procured; afterwards it came to my knowledge that Naylor & Co. stipulated that all papers and books should remain in their office, and that the examination should take place in their office; to this application I consented; so far as my office is concerned I think even Naylor & Co. will admit that I endeavored to inconvenience them as little as possible; the original report presented *prima facie* ground for forfeiture; it was accompanied by an explanation from the house itself; those explanations I considered fully, and I recommended in every case but three that the prosecution be d