THE STATE CAPITAL.

Discussion in Joint Session of the Committee on Cities.

THE SEVENTY'S CHARTER EXPLAINED.

Debate on the Board of Audit Bill in the Senate.

Senator O'Brien on Comptroller Green.

General Cochrane Withdraws from the Maze of Legislation.

ROBERTSON'S RAPID TRANSIT BILL

Manufactured Citizens To Be Looked After—A Stringent Law Proposed—Savings Banks—The Sheriffs' Fees—Brooklyn's Gift to Chicago—The Albany Printing Job.

The Senator from the Fourth—Tweed or Rossa?

ALBANY, Jan. 25, 1872.

The worthy lawmakers have settled down again to work. The bitterness of the fight on Monday is gradually toning down, and the crowds which came to make the "hurrans" for one side or the other have dispersed and gone to their respective abiding places. The canal appointments which were made yesterday have not created as much of a stir here as was expected, because the lucky hurried away with the good news and the "soreheads" hurried away as quickly to swear at their misfortune or the ingratitude of republicans. So now, these outside disturbing elements having been disposed of, the reform Legislature may go on with their good work. "Blessed are they that expect nothing, for they will not be disappointed," has been accepted as an additional beatitude; but the poor public cannot be placed under the category alluded to in that beatitude, for they expect much and will get but little in the way of reformation. It would seem to be the truth that no republican measure can be bad, while the same provision if in the interest of the democrats cannot possibly be good. For instance, a bill was brought into the Assembly to legalize the election of Harrison Clute as Superintendent of the Poor in the town of Schenectady, and a bill for the same purpose was introduced in the Senate. This seems innocent enough. It was sent to the Judiciary Committee and by them reported favorably. Jacobs exposed it and showed that this man Chute was a supervisor in Schenectady at the time of his election, and therefore undoubtedly disqualified to accept or hold the office of superintendent of the poor, a direct, plain and simple provision of the laws of the State prohibiting a supervisor from becoming a superintendent of the poor. Notwithstanding that the act was in direct violation of the law it was pressed forward and carried. Jacobs plainly told the House that the great trouble here was if the House did not legalize a clear violation of an existing statute a democrat would be retained in office, and if they, as lawmakers, agreed to deliberately sanction a violation of law a republican would get the office. "Old Salt" agreed that the result was "just so," or, in other words, that the "end justified the means."

ANOTHER NICE LITTLE JOB

was innocently worked to-day. D. B. Hill, of Chemung (who by the way still continues to act the foolish little boy in regard to his votes, incurring the pity of those with whom he should vote and the contempt of those with whom he does vote), introduced a resolution calling for an investigation into the charges against Terwilliger, Clerk of the Senate, in relation to his pay as "proof reader" extraordinary. Alvord squelched it by calling from the table his resolution in regard to the public printing expenses, which was to have been referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. This was all done with a grand flourish of trumpets, when Smyth, of Tioga, thought "so lang as ye ha'e gote a C'mittee on Pooblic Prenten I doan't see whey the rasolution shed go to the Weesenmeans C'mittee." There was no objection to this, of course. Nobody would be captious or fractious on this point—of course not. So it was sent to the Public Printing Committee; but many here believe that the *Argus* and the *Evening Journal*, the great morning and evening narcotics of this town, through their managers, know a little something about "how the old thing works," and that the resolution will rest quietly in the archives of the committee.

I stated in my despatch a few days ago that the fees of the Sheriff in New York were to be looked into; and now, besides the threatened impeachment of Matthew T. by the Bar Association of your city, it may be stated that

HAYES IS ON THE WARPATH.

He is going for the burly Brennan with a sharp stick. He intends to show up the fraud of giving the Sheriff fifty cents for each person committed in the city and county of New York, and for that purpose has secured the following interesting statistics:—

ARRESTS FOR 1871.

January	5,868	July	7,545
February	5,285	August	8,651
March	7,239	September	7,934
April	6,755	October	7,478
May	7,956	November	5,163
June	7,992	December	6,781
Total			85,517

Committed to care of Commissioners of Charities and Correction, as shown by their books for the year 1871:—Males, 32,124; females, 19,342—total, 51,466. At fifty cents for each commitment the Sheriff's fees would amount to $25,733. At one dollar and fifty cents each, or three times the amount authorized by law, it would amount to $77,199, instead of which the Sheriff presented bills for, and was allowed, $77,310 50, as shown on the books in the Supervisors' office as follows:—

January	$6,744 00	July	$6,677 50
February	6,375 50	August	6,679 50
March	6,863 50	September	6,702 00
April	6,802 00	October	6,258 00
May	6,862 00	November	5,077 50
June	6,815 50	December	5,306 50
Total			$77,310 50

In addition to the above the Sheriff presented bills for fees and other expenses during the year 1871, quarterly, as follows:—

January to April	$16,225 51	July to October	$16,431 95
April to July	19,765 60	October to Dec. 31	20,280 95
Total			$73,302 01
Grand total—Sheriff's fees for 1871			$150,612 51

This is a nice little billet, and it is probable that a bill will be introduced making the Sheriff's office a salaried one at about $10,000 a year, thus saving to the city and county some $140,000 per annum.

THE "MANUFACTURED" CITIZENS

will have to keep dark i the following bill, which was to-day introduced by Mr. Hawkins, should become a law:—

AN ACT to ascertain by proper proofs who are entitled to vote upon certificates of naturalization purporting to have been issued within the city and county of New York by the Supreme Court during the month of October, in the years 1868, 1869, 1870 and 1871, and by the Superior Court during the months of September and October of said years.

The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:—

SECTION 1.—No certificate of naturalization purporting to have been issued by the Supreme Court of the First Judicial district of this State during the month of October, in the years 1868, 1869, 1870 and 1871, nor by the Superior Court of the city of New York during the months of September and October of said years, shall hereafter be received as evidence of the facts therein recited, nor as evidence of the right of the holder thereof to vote at any election until the provisions of this act shall have been complied with by the holder thereof.

SEC. 2.—For the purpose of

DETERMINING THE GENUINENESS

and validity of all such certificates purporting to have been issued by said courts within the period aforesaid, the Court of Common Pleas of the city and county of New York, and the Superior Court of the city of New York, are hereby vested with jurisdiction and authority to entertain the specific proceedings hereinafter authorized for the purpose of establishing the validity and genuineness of such certificates as shall be submitted to said Courts respectively by the holders thereof in the manner hereinafter provided.

SEC. 3.—Any holder of any such certificate may serve upon the Attorney General a copy of such certificate and a written notice that at a time to be named in such notice, not less than twenty days from the time of the service thereof, such holder will apply to such of the said courts as shall be designated in such notice at a special term thereof, to make an order establishing the validity and genuineness of the certificate referred to in such notice; and it shall be the duty of the Attorney General to attend in person, or by such general or special deputy as he shall authorize for that purpose, upon the return day of such notice, at such times and places as the hearing of such notice shall be duly adjourned to, for the purpose of hearing the just determination of the court in which such proceeding shall be instituted in respect to the genuineness and validity of such certificate; and said Attorney General in person or by such general or special deputy file specifications against the validity of the certificate so offered to be established, and in such specifications may raise any issue as to the genuineness of the signature and seal to such certificate, and as to the authority upon the evidence of witnesses produced before him, and jurisdiction of the court or officer by or before whom such certificate shall purport to have been issued to issue the same, and as to the identity of the person named therein with the actual holder thereof, and as to the same having been issued or not issued in blank or without the name of any person being inserted therein at the time the same shall have been signed or sealed, and also may raise any issue of law arising upon the facts of such certificate or the application for the probate thereof, or upon the facts appearing in evidence upon the trial of the genuineness of such certificate, and the Court shall, in a summary way, proceed to hear the evidence produced by either party and determine the questions of fact and of law arising upon the same, and the decision of the Court at the Special Term upon the questions so raised and determined shall be final and conclusive, and if the said Court shall find and determine that any certificate is invalid by reason of the signature thereto having been affixed by any person or persons not really authorized to affix the same, or by reason of the same having been

SEALED BY ANY UNAUTHORIZED PERSON,

or issued in blank, or not founded upon evidence of sufficient length of residence in the State or good moral character, or by any other legal reason, the said certificate shall be directed to be cancelled, and the same shall be cancelled and destroyed by the Clerk of the Court.

SEC. 4.—In case judgment shall be rendered in any such proceeding in favor of the genuineness and validity of any certificate offered for probate, the person offering the same shall be entitled to recover judgment for his disbursements in such proceeding, for witness fees and the lawful fees of public officers paid by him in the prosecution of such proceedings, and such further sum, not exceeding twenty dollars in any one case, as the Court may award, as a compensation to counsel; and the sum so recovered shall be raised by taxation within the city and county of New York, in such manner as the Legislature shall hereafter provide; but in case judgment shall be rendered against the validity of any certificate so offered for probate, judgment shall be rendered against the person offering the same for the like disbursement and costs, which judgment shall belong to the people of the State of New York, and the Attorney General shall be authorized to collect the amount thereof for the benefit of the city and county of New York.

SEC. 5.—The like proceedings may be had in the case of any person claiming to have received a genuine certificate of naturalization since the 1st day of January, 1865, from some Court or officer authorized to issue the same, sitting or acting within the said city and county of New York, in case of the loss of the original certificate of naturalization.

SEC. 6.—The Court to which such application as is hereinbefore authorized shall be made may, in its discretion, direct testimony to be taken upon such application before a referee, who shall be appointed by the Court. In case the applicant and the Attorney General shall agree upon the person to act as such referee the Court shall appoint the person so agreed upon, and the testimony taken before such referee shall be reduced to writing and read over and signed by the witnesses respectively giving such testimony, and such original depositions shall be certified and returned to the Court by the referee.

SEC. 7.—The burden of proof in establishing the genuineness or validity of any certificate of naturalization shall be upon the person presenting the same; such person may be compelled by legal process to appear before the Court or referee and submit to an examination and to answer any questions relating to such certificate, and such person shall be exempt from any criminal proceedings being founded or brought upon any information obtained by such examination.

SEC. 8.—Each of said Courts may make general rules controlling the proceedings on such applications, so far as such general rules shall not conflict with the provisions of this act, and may appoint special and extraordinary terms, to be held by such Justices or Judges of said Courts respectively as may be designated by the said Judges, at any time, trying all issues arising upon such applications; and it shall be the duty of the Judges or Justices of the said Courts respectively to expedite the hearing and determination of such applications as rapidly as shall be consistent with the other business of the Court.

SEC. 9.—All acts, statutes, parts of acts, parts of statutes or provisions of law conflicting with any provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 10.—This act shall take effect immediately.

THE BOARD OF AUDIT BILL IN THE SENATE.

There was quite a lively discussion in the Senate over the bill creating the new Board of Audit, but there was no real fight. The only growl that took place during the debate was made by Benedict, who carried out his threat to oppose the Board of Audit feature of the bill at all hazards. But he was laid out stiff and cold every time he made a motion to amend the bill so as to give the Comptroller the sole power to audit the claims provided for in the measure. It should be stated, however, that the Twombly bill passed in the Assembly was not made the direct subject of the discussion, for Senator Palmer managed to get the Senate bill substituted for the successful House bill at the very start of the debate. In making the motion to this end he explained that it was his intention at the same time to make the Whitbeck amendment relative to other sessions of the Board made a part and parcel of the bill he was anxious should be passed. Hardenburgh gave it as his opinion that the Senate would only be wasting time to wrangle over the bill. If the patriots on the other side of the political fence were as anxious as they claimed to be to do the best thing they could for New York in the particular matter the bill under consideration treated of, they would see the folly of

INAUGURATING A TONGUE WAR

for the sake of giving vent to a surplus of bad ammunition. This reproof iron a democrat was not without its effect, and the republicans showed their good sense by taking the hint in good part and acting accordingly. Benedict, however, in his too great anxiety to win over to his way of thinking on the question the stubborn Senators, who, as a general thing, take a good look ahead before they leap, made a strong appeal to his fellow members not to leave it in the power of any one man in the Board of Audit to prevent the payment of just claims, as any one of the members of the Board, as constituted, could do if he made up his mind to be ugly. He then went on to tell how the working of the two-thirds rule had destroyed the democratic party, and would have in all probability given the Senate a full and complete political history of the past fifty years had he not suddenly been reminded by Mr. Murphy that the democratic party was still alive—in fact not only alive, but in a very determined kicking mood. In justice to Mr. Benedict, however, it should be said that he declared that he would never make use of his political leanings to make any bill a law introduced with the avowed intent to

CRUSH A DEMOCRAT

simply because a democrat was in power. Palmer followed up this move by deprecating the stand the newspapers had taken in regard to the fight over the bill in the Assembly, by which the people were led to believe that the battle was fought between two factions of the republican party. He was thoroughly disgusted with the talk about Fenton and Conkling, and believed it was high time that the Senate put its foot down firmly and showed by its actions that it belonged to no faction. Tiemann had been up to this time anxiously waiting for a chance to say a word, and he was fortunate enough to be recognized by the chairman when Palmer resumed his seat. And his "piece" was short, but it was to the point. "I care for no party in this matter," said he; "all I want is that the poor people in New York who are waiting for us to do something to relieve them from their present tightened circumstances shall be relieved." And he then added rather savagely, as he looked around at the republican Senators, "I came here not to

SERVE ANY POLITICAL PARTY,

but the people of the city of New York, although I am a democrat and always have been a democrat and hope to die a democrat." It was, of course, necessary after this outburst for one of the republicans to show that he and his were just as free from political bias as any life-long democrat, and Woodin got the first chance. In defending that portion of the bill which requires a concurrent vote of all the members to audit a claim, as against a majority vote advocated by Benedict, he claimed that it was but right and just that the minority should be a check upon the majority. If Mr. Green could be prevented by a single vote from carrying out his particular ideas as to any particular claim, he had it in his power to prevent the others from carrying out any particular ideas of their own. It was absurd to suppose that the members would purposely vote to trip one another up to gratify any special feeling any one might entertain towards any other one, particularly if the sessions of the Board were open. He then followed in Palmer's wake on the Fenton-Conkling fight question and indignantly denied that he was

ANYBODY'S MAN,

no matter how very wise people saw fit to classify him. The champagne suppers that he had heard so much about the night after the fight in the Assembly had disgusted him, and he for one would not rejoice if the Senate bill was passed in lieu of the Assembly bill, neither would he weep if it never became a law. When Woodin resumed his seat O'Brien took the floor. So far he has been very quiet in all the debates that have taken place in reference to New York affairs, and naturally enough every eye was upon him as he began to speak. I need hardly state that his speech created a decided sensation from the way he took hold of the men who are striving to obtain power in New York after the work of reform has been completed by other hands.

BENEDICT'S LAST STRUGGLE.

In conclusion it may be said that Benedict was defeated in every motion he made to make the Comptroller the sole auditor in the bill. His first motion to strike out the names of all members of the Board, with the exception of the Comptroller's, was lost by the decided vote of 22 noes to 5 ayes—Benedict, Cock, Johnson, O'Brien and Tiemann voting in the affirmative. How O'Brien came to vote the way he did, when his reflections upon Green are taken into consideration, is rather a mystery. The motion to strike out the lines "by the concurrent vote of all of said members" was lost by ayes 10, noes 16. The only affirmative votes cast for the motion to strike out the Assembly provision of the bill making the sessions of the Board public were Benedict, Cock, O'Brien, Tiemann and Weismann, twenty-three votes being cast against the motion. Johnson's motion to amend the bill by making the President of the Board of Aldermen one of the members was lost—ayes 3, noes 23—Barrower, Jonnson and O'Brien voting in the affirmative. Madden after this endeavored to have the bill sent back to the Committee on Cities, with instructions so to amend it as to require the Board of Audit to submit statements of their doings to the Common Council, but the motion was voted down. The bill then passed, without a solitary vote being cast against it.

LETTER FROM GENERAL COCHRANE.

The following letter was received here this evening by Mr. Twombly:—

To Hon. H. N. TWOMBLY:—

DEAR SIR—At the request of yourself and other republicans of the city of New York, I gave a reluctant consent that my name should be used as one of the Board of Audit, contemplated by your bill recently passed in the Assembly. The singular unanimity with which both your political friends and opponents moved in the Senate to strike me from the bill and to retain the remaining auditors in it suggests the conclusion that my withdrawal would be equally acceptable to your opponents as well as to your friends in the Assembly. So this as it may, my own sense of propriety forbids that I should be continued in this maze of legislation. I therefore ask you to withdraw my name from it. Respectfully yours,

JOHN COCHRANE.

ALBANY, Jan. 25, 1872.

RAPID TRANSIT ONCE MORE.

Mr. Robertson's bill to create a board of commissioners of city railways and to provide means of rapid transit in the city of New York, which has already been alluded to at some length in the HERALD, constitutes Henry G. Stebbins, Andrew H. Green, George M. Van Nort, William F. Havemeyer, George Opdyke, John Wheeler the first board, and gives them power to operate two lines of railway of rapid transit by steam or other power. The railway authorized to be constructed shall be a double line of railway of four tracks each, for through and way travel, to be known as the "East and West Side Railways." The "West Side" will begin at the Battery, extend along and under Greenwich to Fulton street; thence through and under the two intermediate blocks to College place, under College place, West Broadway South Fifth avenue to Washington square; thence by a curved line through and under Washington square and the block intervening between the northwest corner of the same and Sixth avenue, to said avenue, opposite the commencement of Greenwich avenue; thence through and under Sixth avenue to its junction with Broadway and Thirty-fourth street; thence through and

UNDER BROADWAY,

the Circle and the Grand Boulevard to its junction with Ninth avenue; thence through and under Ninth avenue to near 106th street; thence by curve line through intervening blocks to New avenue at a point near 110th street, through and under New avenue to a point near 150th street; thence under said avenue or through the blocks intervening, to the most convenient point for crossing the Harlem River by a tunnel or bridge. The East Side Railway starts at a point near the City Hall, near the termination of the East River bridge, thence by a line as nearly as may be along and under Centre street to Broome street, thence through and under the intervening blocks and streets to Lafayette place, and along and under Lafayette place and the intervening block in a direct line to Fourth avenue, thence along and under Fourth avenue to Harlem River. The railway shall be constructed upon the plan of the Arcade railway in part, cross the Harlem flats by a viaduct, the East Side road north of Thirty-second street to Ninety-ninth street, to be

IN A TUNNEL,

and by viaduct from Ninety-ninth street to Harlem River. The Commissioners may agree with the Harlem Railroad Company for the construction of a double arcade, tunnel or viaduct of four tracks each from Forty-second street northward, under the present road bed or the Harlem Company. "After the completion of the said double sub-roadway the Harlem company and its lessees shall remove its tracks from the surface of said avenue and cease to use the same."

A NEW DEBT FOR BROOKLYN.

Mr. Perry's bill to legalize certain obligations incurred by the city of Brooklyn provides that the money borrowed by the city of Brooklyn or its financial officers (the sum of $100,000) for the relief of the sufferers by the Chicago fire be made a debt of the city. On the surrender of any voucher or vouchers now outstanding the financial officers of the city are required to issue certificates payable on the 1st of January, 1873, bearing interest from the date of the loan. The amount of certificates and interest is to be inserted in the tax levy made in the year 1872.

MONSIEUR TONSON COME AGAIN.

Mr. Weismann created a great deal of merriment to-day by offering a resolution to the effect that any person known as a thief who shall at any time visit or be found in any bank, savings bank or other monetary institution or office, shall upon conviction thereof be imprisoned for a term not exceeding two years, nor less than six months. Evidently the Senator is rather green about lawmaking. What the "conviction thereof" means in the resolution it would be hard to tell. Probably this resolution was palmed off on Weismann by the same wag who got an innocent legislator a few years ago to introduce a resolution declaring that "highway robbery is hereby abolished in the State."

SAVINGS BANKS.

The resolution offered by Mr. Tiemann calling upon the Committee on Banks to inquire into the propriety of so amending the laws as to prevent savings banks from transacting ordinary banking business will doubtless be productive of good results. In view of late revelations concerning certain savings banks in New York a stringent law is needed on the subject.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections held a brief meeting this afternoon.

TWEED AND ROSSA

were conspicuous by their absence. Tweed was represented by Mr. Reynolds as counsel, and Rossa by Mr. Davenport. The committee decided that the charges made by Rossa were not as specific as they should be to justify the committee in basing their action upon them, and so an adjournment took place, with the proviso that at the next meeting Rossa would present his client's claims in a proper shape.

THE NEW JURORS BILL.

The Judiciary Committee of the House has designated Wednesday next, at four o'clock P. M., as the time for considering the bill relative to the qualifications of jurors. The same committee will on Tuesday next, at four o'clock P. M., continue the hearing on the bill relating to the powers of the Attorney General in proceedings against corporations.

ALLEGED CORRUPTION IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CAPITOL.

A committee of the Workingmen's Assembly is engaged taking affidavits in the matter of charges of corrupt practices in connection with the building of the new Capitol. It is charged that materials have been used for private purposes in constructing the building, &c.

THE PROPOSED NEW CITY CHARTER.

Debate in the Committee on Cities in Joint Session.

ALBANY, Jan. 25, 1872.

The Committees on Cities of both houses met in joint session in the Senate Chamber this evening to hear arguments on the proposed new charter for New York. A large number of distinguished citizens of New York were present, including Mr. James M. Brown, ex-Governor Salomon, Simon Sterne, John Wheeler, Joseph Blumenthal, Samuel B. Ruggles, R. B. Sherman, James M. Halsted, Robert Hoe, Judge Emott, Frederick Schalck, Major Bundy, Henry N. Beers, Lewis Ballard, Colonel N. G. Dunn, Albert Klumrath, J. J. O'Donnane, Robert Nooney and Thomas B. McClellan.

Ex-Governor SALOMON was the first to address the committee, and in opening referred to the discovery of great robberies in New York, through conspiracy among the municipal authorities, and the origin and organization of the Committee of Seventy of the leading citizens. He then detailed the duties devolving upon this committee and what it had done. He said that notwithstanding all they had done an appeal was made to the people, not only of the city, but of the State, to do that which it was beyond the power of the committee to do. The people of the State nobly responded to this call, and took measures to secure to the city such reform measures as were needed. The committee, or a sub-committee of fifteen, then proceeded to form a charter, the main features of which had been submitted from time to time to the Committee of Seventy, and met their approval, and now it is submitted to the Legislature with the hope that it will meet with its sanction. He referred to the fact, and deprecated that party rules had been applied to strictly municipal affairs and enforced with such effect as to inflict great damage on the interests of the city. It had seemed to the committee that a removal of the opportunity for this partisanship would result in much good, and he proceeded to illustrate the advantages of minority, or

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION,

and held that the Board of Aldermen elected under this system would be by far the most fit representative of the people. He said this was not a new thing. It had been tried in England, is the law in Illinois, and, indeed, was put in operation in our own State in the election of the Judges of the Court of Appeals. The effect of this principle is to act as a restraint upon parties and require them to put in nomination better candidates. It was also proposed to give the Board of Aldermen larger powers than they have had of late and as is possessed in other cities. They are to have the power to raise all the money necessary to carry on the affairs of the city. They had also thought but one Board instead of two was necessary. There had never been found any more difficulty in putting a scheme through two boards than would be experienced with one. A two-thirds vote was also made necessary for appropriations. He proceeded to detail and comment upon all the other leading features of the charter—the payment of salaries to Aldermen; term of office; the powers of the Mayor to remove from office; he being also removable; the departments to be governed by the proportional system in their organizations. It had been objected that for the executive departments so many men could not discharge their duties as well as one man or head. This objection he discussed, and said that there would be an advantage gained by having a minority present at the action, whatever it was, to see that it was done properly and legally. He held that if you put

THE POWER OF APPOINTMENT

in the hands of one man, a head, the Mayor, you will put it in the hands of a man nominated by a caucus, elected by a party—the creature of a party; and you will certainly have to experience again just such things as have been experienced within the past few years. He said they had provided that the Commissioners should have seats in the Board of Aldermen, but without votes, like the Ministers of England. This, too, was for a good purpose, and it was hoped it would so result. The heads of bureaus appoint their subordinates and can remove them; the heads of bureaus are removable by the heads of the department, who, in turn, are removable by the Mayor on good cause. They had abolished the Commission of Public Docks and provided for a Bureau of Docks. The Department of Public Parks remain as it was, with the exception of relieving it of control over certain streets and some other slight changes, together with putting it under control of the Board of Aldermen. He explained the organization of

THE COMMISSION OF PUBLIC SAFETY,

the members of which were to be elected every three years. He showed how charitable institutions in the city were to be brought under the control and supervision of the Commission of Charities and Correction so long as they received donations from the city. The four Commissioners of Finance are made the Tax Commissioners. They are to file and publish monthly statements of their affairs, and they shall have the sole and exclusive power to pay out moneys. It was thought advisable to have only one outlet to the Treasury. The Board of Aldermen are to pass on the budget, alter it if they see fit, and then the Board of Supervisors shall proceed to raise the money. There was a law department, and no lawyer shall be paid for services except he be appointed through this department. He also explained the provision made for public education, which was of a similar restrictive character. Provision is also made against any one holding two offices. A member of the Legislature or of Congress cannot hold any position under the charter. He concluded by saying that this charter was the result of patient and combined labors. The committee believed that it would give the city a good government. He asked for its candid consideration on the part of the committee and the Legislature. It would excite opposition. It affects materially politicians, and they would, of course, oppose it. It had broken up all

SUBSIDIES TO THE PRESS,

which it was found had grown to great proportions, and had made provision for sufficient publicity, as they thought, at regular prices and cost. He said the committee expected soon to be able to present to the Legislature a registry law which would meet the wants of the city. He called attention to the bill giving power to any taxpayer to sue any official guilty of malfeasance in office, and explained the necessity for that law.

SIMON STERNE was the next speaker, and addressed the committee mainly in advocacy of the principle of minority or proportional elections. This was actually necessary under the prevailing circumstances politically in the city. It was impossible for the minority ever to rise to a majority; therefore they should be put in a position where they can secure representation. There is no other way than this proportional system. He said the minority must be represented, because if they are not there is no opportunity to prevent the robberies we have experienced these past few years. By this system the minority can secure representation in the legislative body of the city, and this representation can be on the watch and prevent frauds. We want some one, he said, in that body who cannot be corrupted. He cited a vast number of high authorities in various sections of the world in favor of the system, and said unless it was engrafted in the charter it would be far better to govern the city from the State Legislature than to keep the city under the majority rule, as at present.

Mr. S. B. RUGGLES was the next speaker. He pointed the committee to the fact that this was the most important question he ever in his forty years' experience knew to be before the Legislature. He endorsed all that had been said in advocacy of the proportional representation system. What was wanted in every department of the city was a pair of eyes to watch the doings of the majority. This was the great desideratum. It was the only salvation of the city. He then proceeded to detail the events of the past six months, and pointed to the great uprising of the people demanding reform. He begged of the committee to seize the opportunity to save the city and do themselves a lasting honor and credit, but he appealed to them not to remove the watch dog which was contained in the proportional representation system.

Mr. JACKSON S. SCHULTZ was the next speaker, who spoke generally on the charter, saying he believed it expressed the sentiment of the people of the city.

The committee then adjourned till a week from to-night.

LETTER FROM GENERAL DIX.

The following letter was handed the committee by ex-Governor Salomon:—

NEW YORK, Jan. 24, 1872.

MY DEAR SIR—I regret exceedingly that I am unable to leave the city and go before the committee of the Legislature which have under consideration the charter proposed by the Committee of Seventy. Having been a member of the Committee on Legislation, under whose immediate direction the charter was formed, I can sincerely say that I have never been associated with a body of gentlemen more earnest in their efforts to accomplish the patriotic object in their view. In this case the object was to frame a plan for a city government which should protect the people from plunder and to arrest maladministration in its incipient stages, by giving to the transactions of municipal officers the most perfect publicity. Among the provisions which recommend themselves particularly to the judgment of the Legislature and to its regard for our welfare is that which aims to secure for us the principle of proportional representation, and in case it should be deemed experimental, I trust there may be no hesitation in according it to us as a measure which can work no possible injustice, and which may be instrumental in restoring to us the long-lost blessing of an honest and prudent government. If the members of the Legislature could have witnessed, as I have done, the long and laborious deliberations with which this charter was framed, and the care with which every provision was weighed, in view solely of the interests of the people of the city I am sure the instrument would go before them with a claim to their favorable consideration which no words of mine could strengthen. I am, dear sir, very truly yours,

JOHN A. DIX.

To Hon. E. SALOMON.

Decision of the Supreme Court in the Tweed and Connolly Cases.

ALBANY, Jan. 25, 1872.

The Supreme Court has decided the cases of Tweed and Connolly, affirming the decisions of the Special Term as to bail, and ordering the arrests, with $10 costs.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

Senate.

ALBANY, Jan. 25, 1872.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES.

A number of petitions were presented against legislative interference with the Erie Railroad; in favor of the Pneumatic Tube Railroad, and for an increase of the Library Fund; also remonstrances against giving the Third Avenue Railroad Company the right to run palace cars; also a petition from Brooklyn requesting the Governor to request the President to direct the Bureau Engineers of New York harbor to revise the pierhead line in front of Brooklyn, as established in 1857.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. PERRY introduced a bill to give notaries public jurisdiction in any county of the State.

Mr. PERRY introduced a bill to legalize contributions of the city of Brooklyn of $100,000 for the sufferers by the Chicago fire.

SAVINGS BANKS.

Mr. TIEMANN offered a resolution requiring the Committee on Banks to report a bill to prevent savings banks from doing business as banks of deposit and checks. Agreed to.

THIEVES AND MONEYED INSTITUTIONS.

Mr. WEISMANN offered a resolution declaring it a felony for any person known as a thief to be present in any moneyed institution. Laid on the table.

THE PAYMENT OF CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK.

The Assembly bill providing for payment of the claims against the city and county of New York was taken up in Committee of the Whole. The Senate bill, which differed from the Assembly bill in leaving the President of the Board of Aldermen out of the Board of Audit, was substituted for the Assembly bill.

Mr. BENEDICT (rep.) moved a substitute which was substantially the same as Mr. Hawkins' bill, which was defeated in the Assembly, and urged its adoption at length.

Mr. PALMER (rep.) defended the Senate bill.

Mr. WOODIN (rep.) spoke earnestly in favor of the Senate bill.

Mr. O'BRIEN (reform dem.) warmly urged the retention of Mr. Cochrane on the Board of Audit. In the course of his remarks Mr. O'Brien severely denounced Comptroller Green.

When the amendment came up to have the meetings of the Board held with open doors, Mr. Benedict strongly opposed it; but it passed by a decided vote.

Mr. JOHNSON, (dem.) in order to have the bill conform to the Assembly bill, moved to add the President of the Board of Aldermen to the Auditing Board. The motion was lost by a decided vote.

The committee rose and reported the bill to the Senate, when Mr. BENEDICT renewed his amendment to give the Comptroller exclusive power, and on that called for the yeas and nays. It was lost—yeas, 5; nays, 22.

Mr. BENEDICT continued to move all his amendments and to demand the yeas and nays; but he was defeated every time by about the same vote.

Mr. JOHNSON renewed his motion to add General Cochrane to the Board and called for the yeas and nays, which resulted—yeas, 3; nays, 25.

Mr. MADDEN (rep.) moved to recommit the bill to the committee with instructions to amend so that the bills audited should be submitted to the Common Council. Lost.

The bill was then ordered to a third reading and passed—ayes 28, all the Senators present voting in the affirmative.

THE PHARMACY BILL

was referred back to the standing committee.

PROHIBITING SAVINGS BANKS FROM DOING ORDINARY BANKING BUSINESS.

Mr. BOWEN (rep.) moved that the Committee on Banks inquire into and report on the propriety of so amending the laws relating to savings banks as to prevent any savings bank doing ordinary banking business. Agreed to.

THE PUBLIC PRINTING.

Mr. WOODIN offered a resolution that the Comptroller of the State furnish the Senate a copy of all contracts now in force in relation to public printing, together with a statement showing the aggregate thereof under said contract or contracts for the year 1871 for printing; also a detailed account of all expenses incurred and paid during the year, under any resolution of the Legislature or either branch thereof, and to whom the same was paid, together with any other information which in his judgment may aid the Legislature in devising measures for retrenchment in the expenses of public printing.

Mr. JOHNSON moved to include the years 1868, 1869 and 1870. Lost.

The resolution was adopted, and the Senate adjourned.

Assembly.

ALBANY, Jan. 25, 1872.

BILLS ORDERED TO A THIRD READING.

Regulating the signing and sealing of bills.

Providing for the formation of free public libraries in each town, village and city in the State.

Mr. JUDD at some length explained the provisions of the bill and the great good it was destined to do if passed.

Mr. SMYTH opposed the bill as unnecessary.

Mr. HOUGHTON, of Saratoga, sustained the bill in an energetic speech. He had never had educational advantages, and he had ever since resolved if the opportunity was presented him to vote for the education of the children of the State he would do so. He would vote for this bill a hundred times if he could. He appreciated the value of education and believed the very existence of our government depended entirely upon it.

The bill, after being slightly amended, was ordered to a third reading.

Providing for the appointing of notaries public in counties where they do not reside but do their business, and legalizing the acts of such notaries.

Amending the act to establish recorders of the Court in Utica so as to pay the Recorder a salary of $2,500, instead of fees. Ordered to a third reading.

Amending the charter of the Port Chester Savings Bank, by authorizing the trustees to invest in town or village bonds. Ordered to a third reading.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

was granted Mr. Tilden for the balance of the week, owing to illness.

BAR ASSOCIATION OF ONEIDA COUNTY.

By consent a bill incorporating the Bar Association of Oneida county was passed.

BILLS REPORTED.

Amending the charter of the Manhattan Dispensary.

Authorizing the Treasurer of Kings county to designate as deputy one of his clerks, to act in his absence. By consent the bill was read a third time and passed.

Amending the act to protect purchasers of real estate sold by order of Surrogates.

The bill to pay the Recorder of Utica a salary of $2,500 a year, instead of fees, was passed.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. HAWKINS—To ascertain by proper proofs who are entitled to vote upon certificates of naturalization purporting to have been issued within the city and county of New York by the Supreme Court during the month of October, 1868, 1869, 1870 and 1871, and by the Superior Court during the months of September and October of said years. The bill prohibits the reception of such papers as facts therein recited, or of the rights of the holder to vote until the provisions of this act are complied with by the holder thereof. To test the genuineness of these papers the Court of Common Pleas and Superior Court are given jurisdiction in the matter for investigation.

By Mr. MACKAY—To incorporate the New York Warehouse and Railway Company and provide improved wharves and warehouses in the city and county of New York, and for the transportation of passengers and freight in New York and Westchester counties. The same bill was introduced in the Senate yesterday.

By Mr. BENEDICT—To secure better protection to persons travelling on city railroads; also for the prevention of gambling.

By Mr. WHITBECK—Amending the charter of the Industrial Exhibition Company of New York.

By Mr. OSGOOD—To establish a Capital Police district, including Albany and Rensselaer counties.

THE NEW YORK CITY STREET CLEANING CONTRACTS.

Mr. HEALY moved that the Commissioners of Street Cleaning in New York report to the House within fifteen days the number of contracts made since the organization of the Commission, with whom made, at what price and how much money has been paid for the service since the organization of the Department. Adopted.

LETTER POSTAGE OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. GORING moved that the postage on the letters of the members be paid for out of the contingent fund of the House.

THE CHARGES AGAINST THE CLERK OF THE SENATE.

Mr. D. B. HILL offered the following:—

Whereas charges have been made in the public press, substantiated by affidavit, alleging that in the years 1868 and 1869, through the procurement, connivance and corrupt action of the then Clerk of the Senate, false and fraudulent bills for printing were presented and paid by the Legislature, and printing bills were fraudulently altered and increased, and said Clerk corruptly received a certain percentage of the amounts thus paid; and whereas said Clerk is an officer of the present Legislature; and whereas attention has been drawn to the subject of public printing and the enormous amounts paid therefor during the past four years; therefore

Resolved, That the standing Committee on Public Printing of this House be empowered and directed to ascertain the truth of the said charge, and to investigate the whole subject of legislative and department printing, and to ascertain whether other corrupt practices and abuses have not existed in relation thereto, and to report thereon to this House; and that such committee have power to send for persons and papers, and the meeting of said committee shall be open to the public.

Mr. ALVORD rose to debate, and the resolution was laid on the table. Mr. Alvord then called up his resolution for the Committee on Printing to make an investigation, which he said would cover this case, and it was adopted.

ALLEGED CORRUPTION IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CAPITOL.

Mr. IRA D. BROWN moved an investigation of the charges made by the Workingmen's Assembly that corrupt practices had been made use of in the construction of the new Capitol.

Mr. IRA D. BROWN offered the following:—Whereas it is charged in a certain resolution adopted by the State Workingmen's Assembly, that the new Capitol has been used as a political machine for the purpose of advancing the political interests of the Capitol Commissioners; that employes of the State have worked upon private contracts while paid by the State, and the building materials have been taken from the new Capitol and appropriated for individual use; therefore

Resolved, That the Ways and Means Committee be and they are hereby authorized and required to examine into the truth or falsity of these allegations, and in the progress of the investigation they have power to send for persons and papers.

Mr. ALVORD rising to debate the resolution, it was tabled.

Mr. YEOMANS offered the following:—Resolved, That the Judiciary Committee be instructed to inquire whether the sale of "prize packages" of confectionery, or other commodities, is in violation of existing statutes, and, if not, that the said committee be instructed to report a bill for the prevention and suppression of such sales.

Debate arising, the resolution was tabled and the House adjourned.

STATE LEGISLATUR