

REWORKING FIFTH AVENUE HAS PASSED TO THE JOURNAL. MERCHANTS ALONG THE THOROUGHFARE LOUD IN THEIR PRAISE FOR THE STIRRING UP OF CONTRACTOR BAIRD TO ACTIVITY THAT PROMISES WELL FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE PIPE-LAYING WORK WITHIN A SHORT TIME.

BAIRD FORCE BY THE JOURNAL PUT HUNDREDS MORE



Serving the Summons on Contractor Baird.

There Is Now Hustling on Fifth Avenue, Thanks to the Journal.

A VAST IMPROVEMENT.

The Last Few Days Have Seen a Wondrous Change in the Work There

SUMMONS SERVED ON BAIRD.

The Contractor Dodged Journal Reporters Behind His Own Rubbish Heaps, but Was Caught at Last.

RESULT OF JOURNAL'S CRUSADE

Table Showing How the Number of Men at Work on Fifth Avenue Grew from Day to Day.

Table with columns: Streets, Sat., Sun., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun., Total. Lists streets from 23rd to 59th and corresponding worker counts.

Not if Contractor Baird were a magician could he work more marvellously on the Fifth Avenue pipe laying job than he continues to do since the Journal took up the thoroughfare, and demanded that an end be put to the dawdling which until then had characterized the contractor's policy.

Yesterday saw progress that was not remarkable in itself, though amazing in comparison with the snail-like pace during the Spring and Summer.

The main activity, so far as Baird's part of the undertaking goes, is now confined to the stretch of the avenue lying between Twenty-third and Thirty-fourth streets.

Less than a week ago the conditions were just the reverse. Up to then the number of men employed was so small that it was evident the only purpose in view then was not to finish up the work, but merely to make a show of doing it.

The change that has come over the situation has turned the despair of the merchants into a condition bordering on joy.

Collis Stirred Them Up. The Commissioner of Public Works has had as much of an awakening as has his contractor.

Arthur A. Sanchez, manager for the Wallace Company, silversmiths, No. 225 Fifth Avenue, cited the contrast between the work now being done on the block on which that firm is located, and the work done there last Summer.

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caused the whole avenue to be closed to traffic, in spite of the express terms of the contract to the contrary. It was reported to us that the work could not be done unless the street were open to traffic.

Thanks to the uninvited activity of the last few days, Baird has succeeded in removing many evidences of his violation of his contract. Up to this week, for instance, the avenue between Twenty-third and Thirty-fourth streets was strewn with pipe for five and six blocks ahead of where there was actual laying of mains, though a stipulation in its agreement with the city provided that pipe should not be delivered for more than one block in advance of laying.

However, there is no disposition on the part of the merchants in the neighborhood to be glad to see the work on the trenches expedited, and in expectation of seeing the work of laying the pipes in the trenches done expeditiously they are willing to be patient in the other particular.

From Thirty-fourth street Contractor Baird has jumped to Fifty-eighth street. A renewal of activity such as has been noted between Twenty-third and Thirty-fourth streets since Monday, August 23rd, on the block below the entrance to Central Park.

A gang of men appeared on the scene yesterday with a derrick and other tools, and by 4 o'clock the first section of the pipe had been hoisted and let down into the trenching.

Work of excavation was begun on Monday on the block between Fifty-ninth and Sixtieth streets. The managers and lessees of the big houses in the neighborhood viewed the work with alarm, but they are a unit in the purpose to watch its progress, and prevent any lowering down the avenue previous to this week.

LLOYD COLLIS'S SNAPS. How the Commissioner's Son Manages to Get Paying Positions on City Work.

Mayor Strong, if he is jealous of his administration's fair game, must examine forthwith into the way Collis has run the Department of Public Works.

Not only has he made of the department, with its moneys and its vast prerogatives, a political instrument to insure his own preferment and profit, but the service for which the city pays has, it seems, been neglected by him from its stated channels, and made to do duty to secure plum for his son, Lloyd Collis, who is said to be an adept at his father's system.

Lloyd Collis enjoys at the present time a steady and diverse source of emolument between which and the Department of Public Works there is a significant relationship.

Water L. Dusenbery, for a long time an engineer in the Public Works Department, told to a Journal reporter yesterday that Mayor Strong would not have taken up the matter, and refer would not have been in sight as it now is.

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tic Works Department, yesterday where he was during his two weeks' absence from the department in December last, the chief engineer here he is showing us himself that the contract in this particular can be lived up to.

When did you hear about that? he asked. "Yes, I was," he answered nervously; "but I don't see how that concerns you."

Mr. Jackson saw his job under Collis taking wings, and answered after a moment's hesitation: "No."

Shields Collis Any Way. This explanation of Jackson is amusing. He seemed to realize it after a minute. Finally he threw off the mask and cried: "I want to be drawn into this business, and I want Lloyd Collis drawn into it."

The investigation of the whole Collis case of turning the Public Works Department into private political school will reveal remarkable facts concerning Lloyd Collis and the piece he holds.

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Business men along Fifth Avenue who have suffered so much all Summer by the dilatoriness of Contractor Baird in the work of laying new mains along that thoroughfare have noted his unwonted activity of the present week with delight.

RICHARD NEUMAN, of NEUMAN & CO., tapestries and antiques, No. 263 Fifth Avenue—When the Journal undertook this work I was almost inclined to think that it could accomplish nothing.

The Journal has truly worked wonders in this matter. For three months up to last week the avenue in front of us and the street on the side were as useless to us in our business as if they did not exist.

For a considerable period it was absolutely impossible for our carriage trade to reach us, though we are situated on a corner. Now we are in a fair way of being relieved.

The Journal has done it. The credit does not belong originally to the Mayor. Colonel Strong, it is true, and I am glad to express my gratitude to him, stirred up Commissioner Collis, and Commissioner Collis stirred up Contractor Baird, but it was the Journal that stirred up Mayor Strong.

ALFRED WALLIS, tailor, No. 251 Fifth Avenue—Mr. Andra is to be commended for aiding the Journal in its movement to right the grievous wrongs inflicted on the merchants of Fifth Avenue by the dawdling of the men in charge of the work of laying new pipes in this thoroughfare.

The action is a just one and ought to be commended as one of public spirit. I, for one, shall be only too glad, if the Journal needs my testimony, to appear in court and show that Mr. Andra's charges are true.

We all suffered equally in that old customers found it hard to reach us, and therefore went perhaps to places of easier access. That business-destroying, loss-compelling mound, rather mountain, has been removed this week and the explanation of it is that the Journal forced Contractor Baird to attend to the work which the city entrusted to his care.

It is the action of this man that I find most interesting. He has been employed, for example, by the asphalt companies to measure up the quantity of asphalt laid, and check it up.

"There is," continued Mr. Dusenbery, "a man named Black, an architect, employed by Superintendent Graham in the Bureau of Repairs and Supplies. His work is upon the changes in city buildings."

"Is that Mr. Baird?" asked the reporter, and then said: "Mr. Baird is somewhere in the vicinity. I guess."

"You will have to go and ask himself," was the tart reply.

"Are you William P. Baird?" asked the reporter, stepping up to the young contractor, who was standing on top of a big mound of dirt.

"Well," he replied, "I am sometimes called by that name. Have you any business to transact with me?"

"Yes, Mr. Baird, we have a summons for your appearance in the Yorkville Police Court, in connection with the laying of pipes on York Avenue. Will you accept its service?"

"Well, I read all about that summons in the Journal to-day, but I did not think you had any business to do with me. I am a contractor, and will be on hand at the proper time. My father is ill, and I want to get this matter settled without causing him any annoyance."

"The Journal will be pleased to print any statement in answer to the complaint which you desire to make Mr. Baird," said the reporter.

"Well," continued the contractor, "as long as the Journal is determined to have this matter settled judicially, I do not consider this an opportune time to speak. I presume I shall be obliged to consult my attorney, and pending that I do not wish to say anything more."

"As I can't escape the Journal," was the reporter was about to leave, Mr. Baird said:

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TEA DRINKERS' HEALTH IN PERIL. BISHOP POTTER IS STILL SUFFERING.

Japan's impure Product Has Been Smuggled Into This Country. Unable to Preside at the Episcopal Convention Yesterday.

RING BEATS INSPECTORS. MAY NOT BE THERE AT ALL. Officials at San Francisco Turned Back the Tea, but It Reached the East in Bond.

A HOSPITAL IN A MOAT. Because of Collis's Neglect of His Duty the Work of Enlargement Is at a Standstill.

MASS MEETING OCTOBER 15. Organized Labor Will Assemble on That Date to Express Its Indignation at Collis.

MAY COST THE CITY DEAR. Suits to Be Filed Demanding Damages for Loss of Life Through Malaria.

JURORS PLAY BASEBALL. Men Who Will Determine Luetgert's Fate at Last Given an Opportunity to Exercise.

Senator's Son Will Marry. Madison, Wis., Sept. 29.—Henry Vilas, the only son of ex-Senator Vilas, it is announced, is soon to marry Miss Jessie Ford of Pittsburg.

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 29.—The jury which is sitting on the case of Sausage Maker Luetgert is growing very weary. They have asked repeatedly to be taken to the theater or some place of amusement, but Judge Tuttle has refused to grant permission.

Humiliation Leads to Suicide. August Albrecht, a tailor of No. 114 Allen street, committed suicide in his apartments last night. He had quarreled with his wife and two sons and his entire family were against him, and the contents of a bottle filled with carbolic acid.

San Francisco, Sept. 29.—The first public announcement of what promises to be a big scandal, in which the health of tea drinkers in the United States is jeopardized, was made to-day. A meeting of leading tea merchants of San Francisco was held in the Appraiser's building to discuss the action of the Board of General Appraisers in New York in reversing a decision of the tea inspector at this port.