

CHARTER EXPRESSES STATED FIGURES

Jefferson M. Levy Says It Will Cost New York \$200,000,000.

FOR BROOKLYN'S BENEFIT. He Analyzes the Respective Tax Levies and Predicts a Three Per Cent Rate Next Year.

DENOUNCES IT AS ROBBERY.

Computation Designed to Show the Mayor That Brooklyn Would Have the Better End of Consolidation by \$7,000,000 a Year.

Of the many methods that have been used to dissuade Mayor Strong from bestowing his official approval upon the Greater New York, none is more ingenious than that followed by Jefferson M. Levy, who has invoked the aid of the multiplication table and the rule of three.

The results of his computations are enough to alarm the taxpayer of what is now the city of New York, unless it be accepted as a truth that "figures may be made to prove anything." To summarize Mr. Levy's conclusions in his own words: "The system of taxation proposed in the charter extorts from the present city of New York for the benefit of the other municipalities a sum which in no year will be less than from \$8,000,000 to \$7,000,000. This is exactly as if \$200,000,000 were taken from the property owners of the present city."

This is the way Mr. Levy works it out and presents it to the Mayor:

"In 1896 the amount raised by taxation in the city of New York was a trifle under \$45,000,000. This was raised on property assessed for the purpose of taxation at something over \$2,100,000,000.

"The amount raised by taxation in Brooklyn in 1896 was a trifle under \$10,000,000, which was raised from property assessed for purposes of taxation, at something under \$600,000,000.

"But the amount raised by taxation in New York was made \$7,500,000 less than it would have been had New York not been blessed with its sinking funds, which the charter proposes to take from the present city and turn into the treasury of the new city. The income of Brooklyn's Sinking Fund for the same year was under \$500,000. There has been some denial of the statement that valuations in Brooklyn are 25 per cent more than in New York. I know whereof I speak. Twenty-five per cent is a conservative estimate.

"I say nothing against Brooklyn real estate, for I am and for years have been a property owner and taxpayer in Brooklyn. There should be no question or rivalry between New York and Brooklyn. Brooklyn's prosperity is dependent on New York's. I repeat, therefore, that the proposed change, 25 per cent is a safe and moderate estimate of the difference in valuations between New York and Brooklyn.

"When valuations are equalized as provided by the charter, New York will pay taxes on \$2,700,000,000, or a total of \$45,000,000. Brooklyn will pay \$10,000,000. In other words, New York will pay nine-elevenths of the total amount raised from the two cities. On the basis of 1896, this would amount to \$33,000,000. New York sacrifices under the terms of the charter two-elevenths of her income from the Sinking Fund, and \$10,000,000. New York will then pay nine-elevenths of \$62,500,000, or \$51,000,000, which, according to our present valuations, would make a rate of 2.43 per cent.

"But why do I base my calculations on the year 1896? The charter proposes large expenditures incident to the beginning of the life of the new city. The cost of the new bridge is to be met.

"With every municipality included in the Greater New York, not even excepting our own city) rushing headlong into new obligations, with valuations upset, with order nowhere, and chaos, uncertainty, mystery everywhere, what is to be the result?

"I would be within the bounds of careful statement if I said that the tax rate for 1898 would be 2 per cent.

"New York has to pay for the new municipal building, for the Concourse, for new schools, and a large district covering many square miles, and long neglected, must be improved and developed. More important than all these together, New York must provide some means of raising the money which she really needs to pay out for the benefit of others from \$8,000,000 to \$7,000,000 every year. At the current rate of over 2 per cent, the city borrows money she is accumulating what is really a permanent debt of over \$200,000,000.

"I wish to repeat that the system of taxation proposed in the charter extorts from the present city of New York for the benefit of other municipalities a sum which in no year will be less than from \$8,000,000 to \$7,000,000. This is exactly the same as if \$200,000,000 were taken from the property owners of the present city.

"I say nothing as to the constitutionality or legality of such a scheme. But I tell Your Honor it is as if a confectioner, such a robbery as was never before heard of.

"Your Honor cannot believe that such a scheme can be set into operation until every expedient, every resource is exhausted by those whose interests are outraged by the charter.

"This, bear in mind, is distinct from the indebtedness of the other municipalities of the Greater New York, all of which are to be assumed by the new city.

"Your Honor, this is a city of splendid resources. New York could recover from a tornado, from a pestilence, from an earthquake, but the steady drain on her resources which the charter, as at present proposed, will cause, means a death struggle for existence.

"The only reason that the people do not arise by the thousands to oppose this charter is because its provisions were concealed and have not become generally known. Should this charter be passed as now proposed, the people will send its proposer into a merited oblivion.

"When we ask for a borough system of taxation and assessment, we must not be understood as asking for a system borrowed from any foreign country. To find a borough system in active operation we need go no further than our sister city of Brooklyn. I find by reference to the report of the Comptroller of that city that, while the whole debt of the city of Brooklyn and County Kings exceeds \$70,000,000, yet only \$13,000,000 of this is to be paid by the city at large; the first twenty-eight wards are to pay \$12,000,000 and the balance of the debt is distributed among the districts benefited by the improvements for which the debt was incurred.

"We ask that the city of Brooklyn join with us in urging the adoption of the same rule that Brooklyn itself applied when it annexed its smaller neighbors.

"Mr. Mayor, I beg of you to withhold your approval from this measure."

COL. ROGERS ON CHARTER FLAWS.

"This Community," He Writes, "Will Be Despoiled as Arbitrarily as It Could Be By Anything Short of Force of Arms."



The proposed charter provides, in Chapter XVII, for equality of taxation between the present city of New York and the territory to be annexed. This appears on its face plausible enough, but it would in fact work unjust and intolerable hardship upon the present city of New York in the increase of annual taxation. It is, in my opinion, a grave question of doubt whether, under the confused provisions, qualifications and repeals in section 1613 and section 1615, a tax levy for 1898 would not be wholly invalidated.

Let us look for a moment at the assessment figures of 1896, as they bear upon the question of the annexation of Brooklyn alone. In this city, according to that assessment, the value of real estate was \$1,731,569,193, estimated at about 50 per cent of real value. Personal property was assessed at \$374,975,762. The total assessment was therefore \$2,106,544,955. In the same year Brooklyn real estate, estimated at the rate of about 75 per cent of real value, amounted to \$555,310,897. Personal property in that city was assessed then at \$275,536,636, making the total assessed valuation in Brooklyn for 1896 \$830,847,533. Now observe the tax levy for that year, which was in New York \$44,900,200, and in Brooklyn \$15,969,579.

The New York rate of taxation in 1896 was \$2.14 per \$100. In Brooklyn it averaged \$2.50 per \$100. In Brooklyn the tax levy was based on about 75 per cent of the actual value of property, while in New York the basis was about 50 per cent. It clearly appears, therefore, that New York's assessed valuation of all property was about four times as great as the assessed valuation of all kinds of property in Brooklyn, and that the amount of money raised by taxation was but two and three-quarters times as great.

Should consolidation be enacted into law, I have made some calculations from these figures which show that such a result would impose the grossest injustice on New York taxpayers. Should it come to pass the result of equality of assessment and taxation would be in effect to add to the \$1,731,569,143 assessed real estate valuation in this city 25 per cent of the actual value of the same property to equalize with the present assessments in Brooklyn. Twenty-five per cent of the actual value is \$865,754,571, which added to the assessed valuation of the real estate, \$1,731,569,143, and the \$374,975,762 of personal estate assessment, make \$2,932,309,476, as against \$830,847,533 for Brooklyn.

The total budget for New York and Brooklyn amounted to \$60,369,909. The total value of property in both the cities under the plan of equalization proposed would be \$3,555,087,109. New York's share of the total budget would be, therefore, under this process of equalization, \$59,887,000—an increase of \$5,986,700—while Brooklyn's share would be \$9,900,000, a decrease of \$5,989,579. The taxation incident to projected improvements and an enlarged fire and police protection must be added to the burden. In the annexed districts this increased burden would be conspicuous, since not only in Brooklyn and Long Island City, but in the towns of Queens County and Staten Island, there must, as a matter of pure evolution, be great additional expense of government and extension.

If this community is to be governed under the act that they have prepared, it will be despoiled as arbitrarily and as successfully as it could be by anything short of actual force of arms.

My objections to the charter are not confined to the effect it will have upon taxation. The proposed municipal assembly is entirely opposed to the interests of the city. The method proposed for carrying on public improvements is cumbersome and impracticable, and endless and expensive litigation is certain to follow efforts to administer the law under the proposed charter, as has been shown by the report of the Bar Association, the City Club and numerous individuals.

WILLIAM E. ROGERS.

ONLY ONE DEMOCRAT LEFT

Brooklyn Police Courts Will Be Reorganized on May 1 and Republicans Will Be in Control.

The police courts of Brooklyn will be practically reorganized on the first of May. Three Democratic Justices will retire and four Republicans will begin their judicial careers. When these changes shall have taken place every police court but one in the city will be under Republican control.

Justice John J. Walsh, Democrat, will retire from the Adams Street Court, where he has presided ever since the death of his father, the late Justice Andrew Walsh, whom he succeeded. Justice Walsh will be succeeded by Jacob Brenner, the Republican leader of the Tenth Ward. Mr. Brenner is a young Republican lawyer and at present counsel to the Police Department.

Justice James G. Tizbe, Democrat, of the Butler Street Court, will give way to Justice Henry Bristow, a Twenty-second Ward Republican, who is in the sewing ma-

chine business. Mr. Bristow is also a member of the Board of Assessors. Justice Tizbe will resume the practice of law.

Justice William Kramer, Republican, who was appointed to succeed the late Justice Harriman, will retire on May 1. He will, however, go to the Law Avenue Court and succeed Justice A. H. Goetting, and serve a full term of four years, for which he was appointed by Mayor Waudley.

Justice Lewis Worth will begin his judicial career on May 1 at the Gates Avenue Court. He is a son of Jacob Worth, the Republican leader and County Clerk. The young man is at present Under Sheriff, in which place he was appointed by Sheriff Butting.

It is probable that the Democratic attaches of the various courts will be removed unless protected by civil service laws.

Justice A. E. Steers, of the Flatbush Court, will be the only Democratic police justice in Brooklyn after May 1.

Then George Dropped Her. Her fiance (who has not known her very long, and is inclined to be jealous)—Clara, dear, did you ever have a—eh—a—experience like this before? Clara (innocently—she was sitting on the top rail of a fence)—Tid Bits.

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TA-RA-RUM! THE CIRCUS IS HERE.

Band Plays in Red Togas and Spotted Steeds Cavort.

NOVELTY ALOW AND ALOFT

Family Los Battos, Late of Spain, Spell Bind in the Upper Altitudes.

Daily and nightly to long-drawn, ecstatic ta-ra-rums by crimson garbed musicians, the greatest show on earth reels off its many marvels at Madison Square Garden. In many respects the circus is grander than ever this season. The same fat-bellied, polka-dot horses cavort giddily with the renowned Sisters McVort posing gracefully on tiptoe. Clouds of flying acrobats hurl themselves over heads of living, breathing elephants, a congress of clowns, including three lady Grimaldis, imported at great expense, provoke tumults of merriment, and the expert Jap juggles his family and household goods on the soles of his feet, as in the dear, dead days beyond recall.

Marvels of the Ozone. There is so much to be seen that a person with the ordinary powers of vision and flexible neck cannot compass half the show at a single visit. The 300 kings and queens of the atmosphere, stark wire virtuosos, human angle-worms and horse hypnotizers are quite bewildering, not to say dazzling. But the big show reeled off its many features, the menagerie rumbled and roared and barked, and the populace applauded wildly and enthusiastically.

Aerially the show is marvellous. From one end of the building to the other the girdlers are hung with wire gear, rings, bars, ropes and nets, among which the lithe-limbed artists, male and female, flit with the airy abandon of birds to appropriate music. The Silbous and Dunhams have been seen before, but the Family Los Battos are the most recent spellbinders aloft. Clad in yellow togas, with black trimmings, the male Los Battos rides an inverted bicycle around a small stage suspended in midair, with the lady Los Battos hanging in his teeth. The bicycle is attached to the under side of the platform, while Mr. Los Battos clings to the handle by sheer muscular force. This is the first American appearance of the versatile bikers, who are said to hail direct from Spain.

Human Arrow Still on Deck. Mlle. Anar, the Human Arrow, in blue fleshings, is still being shot atwart the arena into the hands of a lady friend, who bangs by her heels, and thence to the net below, where the Human Arrow arrives in a graceful sitting posture. Heretofore the Arrow was projected through a net target, but the act has been improved.

While this stirring event disturbs the upper altitudes, a pile-colored dog, minus his tail, plays football with a sphere bigger than himself. With great gusto and agility the dog pursues the ball, punting it with his hind legs, and kicking it with his forepaws, the black-wire empress and the panchito feet of spotted steeds, utterly regardless of consequences. When coming down from a high bonanza, the dog rises to meet the ball with another nose punt that sends it half way across the garden. With one respect, the lady and gentleman artists, the football game is a whole show in itself.

John O'Brien is still performing one of the most excited and majestic equine acts ever successfully attempted, according to the programme. Mr. O'Brien and seventy-four equines revolve swiftly on a terraced wooden pyramid, and conclude with a

Little Egypt dance by the white equine ridden by Mr. O'Brien. A Cataleptic Horse. Miss Peyran and her parent hypnotize a large brunette horse and balance him on his spine, after which the cataleptic equine sits in a plush chair and smokes a pipe. The Pyramids also sit on the horse by way of variety.

In the acrobatic line the six phenomenal Horas do a clever turn. Three women in black silk ball gowns, and three agile men in evening dress and overcoats, "execute with never-failing precision and accuracy series upon series of wonderful displays, singly, by twos, by fours, and by the whole united company. This excerpt from the programme tells the entire story.

The menagerie is well stocked with rare and expensive beasts. Miss Johanna, the gorilla, has greatly improved in deportment under the tutelage of Keeper McKay. She now takes pink teas every afternoon with "Suzette Willie," and eats exclusively with her fork.

Franks Bob Up Again. In the freak department Little Peter and the lady giant, standing side by side, offer a startling contrast in human anatomy. There is also a gentleman who surfs on lurid flames and seems to enjoy the mess. Next to him the lightning calculator spells back a bit of chalk and a black-board. Fannie Buvette, the midget snake charmer, has not been forgotten, either. Had in spangled velvet skirts and Roman boots she has in from the intrepid Fannie festoons herself with garlands of groggy snakes, and smiles at the horror depicted on the faces of her admirers and their little boys and girls. The midget snake charmer absolutely does not know what fear is.

The circus will continue for three weeks. The Nobles of the Mystic Shrine complete breaking the record for big theatre parties on the occasion of their formal annual visit on the evening of Thursday. The Nobles have already secured boxes and seats for themselves and their families to the number of nearly 4,000. Several entirely new features, some spectacular and others of mystic significance, will be included in the programme of the evening's entertainment in recognition of the visitors. The baby white camel, born in the menagerie a month ago, has been christened "Mecca," in honor of the Shriners, and will be utilized on this occasion in certain parts of the show. The Nobles will understand, whether tilters do or not.

WANT ASPHALT PAVEMENT.

Residents of Wyckoff Street, Brooklyn, Ardent to Have the Thoroughfare Improved.

Residents and property owners of Wyckoff street, Brooklyn, along its entire length, are enthusiastic over the proposition to have it paved with asphalt. The improvement they say, would materially increase the value of real estate and would, with adjoining streets similarly paved, form a fine road to Coney Island for bicyclists and drivers.

Those in favor of the proposition have in mind the benefits already apparent from the recent paving of State street. That thoroughfare was treated to the asphalt-paving process and put in its present spick and span condition, a vehicle of any kind was rarely seen there. Now it is crowded at all hours with bicycles and wagons, and Alderman Jahn, who fathered the improvement, has been the subject of much favorable comment.

Many of the wheeling clubs of South Brooklyn, notably the Victor Wheelmen and the La Salle Bicycle Club, are earnestly at work securing signatures to the petition to have the street paved, and Alderman McCarry, who is quite in favor of the scheme, expects to have no difficulty in having his resolution passed when he presents it before the Common Council.

Borax's Good Wife.

Mr. Thompson—Our neighbor Borax was shot at by a burglar, and the bullet lodged in his purse. Mrs. Thompson—What of it? Mr. Thompson—Nothing, only I was thinking my wife must be very economical. A bullet would go right through mine.

EDITOR POST'S CONTEMPT OF COURT

He Makes a Statement of His Troubles to the Journal.

OHIO JUDGE'S DIGNITY.

It May Not Rudely Be Jarred, Jolted, Nor Yet Impinged Upon.

Cleveland, April 2.

To W. R. Hearst: In your issue of March 24 appeared a telegraphic report of my conviction of contempt of court, in which great injustice was done my senior counsel, ex-Judge E. J. Blandin, who is without dispute the leader of the Cleveland bar. Your report said:

Former Judge Blandin, counsel for Post, raised the question of the jurisdiction of Lamson to pass upon the question of contempt. "I passed upon that when I arrested Post," replied Lamson.

"Then I move that the case be tried before some judge who has not prejudged it," said Judge Blandin.

Judge Lamson held the remark of Judge Blandin to be contemptuous, and told him unless he withdrew it he would fine him, to wit: \$100. Mr. Blandin promptly retraced the statement.

Will you allow me the space to state precisely what occurred? When, at the contempt trial before Judge Lamson, my counsel proposed to discuss the proposition that my editorial criticism of a judicial abuse was not contemptuous, Judge Lamson said:

"That I wouldn't hear you upon. When the Court issued the writ in this case it prejudged that question."

My counsel, ex-Judge Blandin, promptly but courteously responded: "Then I respectfully submit that Your Honor refer this case to some judge who has not prejudged the case."

I have quoted from the notes of a stenographer of highest standing. What Blandin Thought. It was for this remark that ex-Judge Blandin supposed he was being called to account, and he refused to withdraw it and refused to apologize, though Judge Lamson threatened him with contempt proceedings, and actually prohibited his further participation in my trial.

On the following day after I had been sentenced, Judge Lamson called ex-Judge Blandin to the bar, and then, for the first time, the latter learned that he was being held to account for having followed the words quoted above, with these further words: "And who will try this case fairly?"

Ex-Judge Blandin had no recollection of using these supplementary words and had no intention of using them; I did not hear him utter them; and neither stenographer had taken them down, though the official stenographer interlined them in her notes, "from memory." But Judge Lamson insisted that they had been spoken, and that they were the words to which he objected. This left ex-Judge Blandin no alternative but to stand by words for which he had never intended to be responsible, or to do as he did. He said, in substance: "If Your Honor holds that I used those words, your decision upon that point is legally conclusive, and I am willing that

those words should be struck from record." Lamson Accepted It. Judge Lamson promptly accepted this withdrawal. In fact, however, was no withdrawal of what ex-Judge Blandin had deliberately said, and no apology, though both withdrawal and apology had been demanded the day before, at default of both I was deprived of the views of my senior counsel. The stands to-day, as ex-Judge Blandin has already intimated to make it, namely: Judge Lamson: "That I would you upon. When the Court issued in this case it prejudged that question." Ex-Judge Blandin: "Then I move submit that Your Honor refer this case to some judge who has not prejudged it."

If you will allow me to add a few of my own intentions in this case, I like to assure my friends among the "name" readers that, regardless of the consequences, I shall pay no fine in a highest tribunal that has jurisdiction of the case has decided in my favor. If proceedings have been pushed so I menace the freedom of the press a small liberty that is mine by constitution; through the courts, though possible, but through legislation, if necessary. Respectfully, L. OTIS F.

NAMELESS WAIF IN BROOK

No One Has Inquired for a Little Boy on Bushwick Avenue.

The Children's Society of Brooklyn a nameless little waif on its hands.

officials have been unable to find any of the child's parents. The boy was up on Bushwick avenue on March 1, the police of the Stagg street police station. He is about five years old, usually bright, but is unable to talk. His chief accomplishment is in holding out his hand for pennies. He asked his name, but only smiles makes an appeal for change.

The little fellow has light hair and eyes. When found he wore a blue shirt with a trimming of white fur. He was on a cloak of light yellow flannel, white for collar. His dress is blue and he had on a pair of black socks with black shoes, which had been a little.



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In School Suits, we are showing one of brown or blue serge. Eton style, with white blouse or shirt waist. Full skirt, pointed belt. Jacket has collar and trimmed with braid. Sizes, 8 to 14 years. \$2.50 to \$3.75.

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LADIES' DONGOLA SHOES, flexible soles, Patent Leather Tips, Coin Toe, \$1.24. Usual price \$2.00.

LADIES' FINE DONGOLA KID BUTTON & LACE SHOES; Goodwear Welt (hand-sewed process); 3 popular shapes, \$1.49. Similar grades never before offered for less than \$2.50.

LADIES' TAN VICI KID LACE SHOES, newest styles, dark colors, usual \$3.50 quality, \$1.99.

LADIES' DONGOLA KID OXFORD TIES, New styles. Fresh goods. While they last \$87c. Value \$1.50.

BOYS' AND YOUTHS SATIN CALF LACE SHOES, Yale toe, with tips, sizes 11 to 2, 79c. Value \$1.25. Sizes 2 1/2 to 5 1/2, 99c. Value \$1.50.

BOYS' AND YOUTHS' RUSSIAN TAN LACE SHOES, sizes 11 to 5, value \$1.75, 99c. LITTLE MAN'S SPRING HEEL SHOES, sizes 9 to 13. Satin Calf, value \$1.25, 79c. RUSSIA TAN, value \$1.50, 99c. MISSES AND CHILDREN'S FINE VICI TAN SHOES, dark colors, coin toe. Sizes 6 to 8, 75c. Value \$1.25. Sizes 8 1/2 to 2, \$1.00. Value \$2.00. MISSES AND CHILDREN'S BLACK DONGOLA KID AND TAN SHOES, good style—built for service. Sizes 6 to 8, Sizes 8 1/2 to 11, Sizes 12 to 2, 65c. 75c. 89c. Value 1.00 Value 1.25. Value 1.50. INFANTS' no heel SHOES, sizes 2 to 6; Dongola Kid, with Tips, worth 35c., 15c. Fine Tan Goat or Vic Kid, worth 65c., 39c. Fine Tan Kid, Hand Sewed, value \$1.25, 69c.

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