

CORBIN'S PLANS IN ALIEN HANDS.

Syndicate of Millionaires to Carry Out His Tunnel Scheme.

Fast Time from Jersey Across and Under New York to Long Island.

Metropolitan Traction Company and the Other Interests Pushing the Project.

ELECTRICITY THE MOTIVE POWER. Partial Details as Already Decided Upon, and the Names of the Members of the Grant Combination—Under One Control.

The heirs of the late Austin Corbin by a strange turn in the wheel of fortune will see one of his pet schemes placed in execution by means of the very act which takes from them all interest in the railroad which when he took hold of it was a streak of rust.

The members of this syndicate are August Belmont, William A. Read, of Vermorel & Co.; Brown Brothers & Co.; Charles D. Dickey, Jr.; Theodore A. Havemeyer, of the Sugar Trust; Strong, Sturgis, & Co.; Kessler & Co.; Frederic G. Bourne, George F. Baker, of the First National Bank, and Hollister & Babcock, who are closely affiliated with the Mutual Life Insurance Company.

The stock represented will be of a par value of \$6,500,000 out of the entire capitalization of the \$12,000,000 of the road. Of this \$3,500,000 has been owned by the Pratt interests, and the balance was secured by purchase from the heirs of Austin Corbin.

The proposed tunnel under the East River can be constructed at an estimated cost of about \$8,000,000. The charter belongs to the Pennsylvania Railroad, and permits the continuance of the tunnel from this city to Jersey City, should it be deemed advisable.

Two stations for the accommodation of passengers will be provided in this city. One will be at Cortlandt and Church streets, to connect with the Sixth and Ninth avenue elevated railroads, and the other at the corner of Pearl street and Maiden lane, where connection will be made with the Third and Second avenue lines.

It is now thought that electricity will be the motive power of the trains running through the tunnel. A surface line is in projection, as part of the scheme, to run from the Atlantic Avenue terminal of the tunnel to Manhattan Beach, Coney Island, connecting with the road now running from Bay Ridge and Coney Island.

An outlet for the Long Island road in the upper portion of New York City will be obtained by the completion of the proposed bridge from Long Island City to this city, passing over Blackwell's Island. It is stated that to carry out this scheme the city now occupied by the stables of the Fourth Avenue horse car line, in the corner of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company, at Thirty-fourth street and Fourth avenue, will be used.

Sir Joseph Hickson Buried. Montreal, Jan. 8.—The funeral of the late Sir Joseph Hickson, ex-governor of the Grand Trunk Railway, took place this afternoon, and was attended by a large number of prominent railway men from all over Canada, as well as a good representation from the United States.

Banker Wassmansdorff Left Little. Chicago, Jan. 8.—The will of Otto Wassmansdorff, the banker, who committed suicide after the failure of his banking firm, Wassmansdorff & Heinselman, was filed in the Probate Court yesterday. It disposes of an estate of but \$250, all in personal property.

Hartford to Have "White Wings." Hartford, Conn., Jan. 8.—Two of Colonel Waring's "white wings" made their appearance on the streets of Hartford to-day. The Street Board has determined to try the experiment of uniforming sweepers, and to equip two men for public inspection.

WHERE MORGUE BODIES GO

Superintendent Murphy Gives Some Damaging Evidence Against Ex-Keeper White.

Morgue Keeper Albert Napoleon White was not present during the investigation of the charges against him, begun yesterday in earnest in the Charities building. His lawyer, William L. O'Neill, applied for another postponement and presented a certificate from a physician, saying that Mr. White had neurvialgia of the heart and that it would be unsafe for him to undergo the excitement of a trial.

MRS. ELISABETH SOMMERS



Magistrate Mott's Consignment of Mrs. Sommers to the Workhouse Wrecks a Home. Notwithstanding appeals on her behalf and assurances of the respectability of the woman he convicted on a policeman's statement that she had accosted him, the Magistrate refused to change his decision yesterday.

Missouri Town Under Water. Richmond, Mo., Jan. 8.—The entire town of Linn Creek, in Southwest Missouri, is under water. The Osage River going eighteen inches above high water mark.

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Jerry McAuley Mission Celebration. The fifteenth anniversary services of St. Jerry McAuley Memorial Mission will be held at the Mission, No. 104 West Thirty-second street, next Sunday, at 3 and 8 o'clock p. m.

Bombay's Losses from Plague. Bombay, Jan. 8.—The Times, of India, in an article on the plague which is ravaging the city, says that since the outbreak of the plague the population of Bombay has been reduced one-half and the weekly mortality has averaged 200 per thousand.

MOTT HAS NO MERCY FOR MRS. SOMMERS.

"Prosecute the Policeman for Perjury," His Answer to Appeals.

Says He Is Sorry, but What He Does Cannot Be Undone.

Unfortunate Woman's Respectability Vouched for by All Who Know Her.

CONDEMN THE MAGISTRATE'S ACTION.

Meanwhile the Woman, Whose Appeal in Court Was Not Listened to, Wears a Workhouse Suit and the Husband Has Only His Faith in Her to Console Him.

I am sorry for Mrs. Sommers. Prosecute the policeman for perjury if he swore falsely. I had to act on the evidence. Magistrate Mott on the Sommers Outrage.

William B. Pettit, of No. 211 West Thirty-fourth street, the owner of the big tenement at No. 239 West Thirty-third street,



Magistrate Mott's Consignment of Mrs. Sommers to the Workhouse Wrecks a Home. Notwithstanding appeals on her behalf and assurances of the respectability of the woman he convicted on a policeman's statement that she had accosted him, the Magistrate refused to change his decision yesterday.

In a rear apartment of which resides Hugh Sommers, whose wife was unjustly arrested on the street by Policeman Panzer and sent to the Workhouse for five days on an outrageous charge by Magistrate Mott, sitting in Yorkville Court, took an hour off yesterday afternoon and went to see the Magistrate, and told him that he knew Mrs. Sommers to be an honest, respectable, industrious woman.

"I am sorry for Mrs. Sommers, but it is done now. Your only course is to prosecute the police officer for perjury. I had to act on the evidence. I had nothing to refute the testimony of the officer that the woman asked him to take her to a saloon."

Seeing that he was wasting his time, the benevolent landlord went his way. At his office, No. 241 West Thirty-third street, soon afterward, he said:

"Mr. and Mrs. Sommers are almost entire strangers to me, but I am sure of their respectability. They came to live in one of my apartments on October 5. They inquired particularly from Mr. Moody, the janitor, as to the character of the neighbors. They were always in their house by 6 o'clock in the evening. Their rooms rent for \$7 a month. They are very poor and have been industrious in looking for work. Yesterday I heard that Mr. Mott had sent

this little woman to the island for five days on a charge which I knew to be absurd. No one could look at her and talk to her and think for one moment that she could be guilty of such a thing. I am very much surprised at the action of the Magistrate and sincerely sorry for it."

Every one who knows Mrs. Sommers speaks well of her. H. E. Wise, who is connected with the factory in which she was recently employed, said:

Mrs. Sommers's arrest was absolutely outrageous and unjust. I consider her a perfectly innocent woman. She was worked for Stanley's soap factory for some months past, and during that time we have always regarded her as a woman of unimpaired character.

Mrs. Kate Brennan, who also lives at No. 239 West Thirty-third street, said:

When Mrs. Sommers first came to the house she inquired very particularly about the neighbors, and seemed rather excited. She and her husband seem very industrious, and not at all the sort of people that one would judge from the recent difficulty.

From all I know of Mrs. Sommers, she is a perfectly respectable woman. I don't believe the charge made against her is true. No greater outrage upon justice has ever been perpetrated.

The husband has sent this letter to the Journal:

New York, Jan. 8, 1897. There is not a word of truth in Panzer's charges, and I could never suspect my wife of any such thing. My wife is a noble and true woman, and I can't see why Magistrate Mott should persecute her. I tried to tell Magistrate Mott that she was a true woman, but he would not listen to me. I can hardly believe a Magistrate could be so unjust. Respectfully yours, HUGH SOMMERS.

BIG FIND OF NATURAL GAS. New and Rich Vein Struck at Rome, in This State.

Rome, N. Y., Jan. 8.—Drilling for natural gas is proceeding at the Rome Factory Building Company's plant night and day. About 11 o'clock last night a new vein was struck, which showed a pressure of over

"The hand of poverty," said the Judge yesterday, "laid most heavily on the poor people of my district. It is made up of the Seventh, Eleventh and Thirteenth wards and extends from Catharine street to Fourteenth street and Avenue B to the East River. In this district alone 8,825 families were impoverished, and they averaged at least four members each, making a total of 35,300 homeless ones."

"I have never in all my experience seen so much suffering among the lower classes as within the year just ended. In the cases that have come before me I have always endeavored first of all to secure a stay of proceedings for the tenant, and to the credit of the landlords be it said I have generally been successful. The statistics I have compiled show that the greatest suffering is in the East Side districts."

"The statute is imperative and mandatory in its terms as to the issuance of the warrant, but the landlord must indeed be a hard-hearted man who will not listen to argument, especially when his tenants are in want of food, and when, if dispossessed, they would have no place or shelter for themselves and their families. Under the laws as they at present exist such matters must be governed by the principles of humanity."

Amenable to Reason. "When business is good and money is plentiful the landlord obtains a stony and usually profitable revenue. His rental income is generally sure from the workingman. He should, therefore, make due allowance when, owing to want of employment, the tenant cannot pay his rent promptly, and be willing to bear with his unfortunate debtor."

"With a revival of trade and the resumption of the great industries of the country the world again be plentiful. Then the landlords who have been kind and lenient and aided in partly alleviating the suffering of the deserving poor, may have additional reason to feel satisfied that their kindness is well bestowed and has helped to lift the burden from many a sorrowful heart."

PRINCE INVITES BAYARD: Heir to the British Throne Asks Our Ambassador and Family to Spend a Few Days at Sandringham.

London, Jan. 8.—The Prince and Princess of Wales have communicated with Mr. and Mrs. Bayard, announcing their wish to entertain them socially for several days at Sandringham, at a date convenient to the Ambassador.

This will really form the close of the parting festivities in honor of Mr. Bayard, who will also be entertained by the Queen before he leaves, but only to dinner.

Hanna Cannot Attend the Banquet. Chicago, Jan. 8.—Marcus A. Hanna has declined the invitation of the Hamilton Club, of this city, to be present at its banquet next Monday.

Although Mickey was appointed by the National Republican chairmanship, which he holds, is the reason for his declination. It is said that Mr. Hanna may not be present at the banquet of the Marquette Club, arranged for February.

POVERTY THE CRIME OF THESE THOUSANDS

Fully 200,000 Human Beings Made Homeless in New York in 1896.

Evictions Judicially Ordered in Twelve Civil Court Districts.

With the Report from One Court Missing, the Complete Number of Cases Is 51,723.

EAST SIDE THE GREATEST SUFFERER.

Justice Goldfogle, Who Compiled the Figures, Deplores the Appalling Conditions—Landlords Are Not Always Unreasonable.

Table showing last year's evictions by district: First District 2,000, Second District 2,712, Third District 2,350, Fourth District 7,000, Fifth District 8,825, Sixth District 2,053, Seventh District 5,004, Eighth District 1,453, Ninth District 7,014, Tenth District 1,453, Eleventh District 6,443, Twelfth District (new) No report, Thirteenth District (new) 923, Total 51,723.

The above figures show the number of families evicted in New York during the year ending December 31, 1896. Times were never harder, and Judge Henry M. Goldfogle, of the Fifth Judicial District Court, who compiled the report, says that upward of 200,000 human beings within the twelve months found themselves without food or shelter.

"The hand of poverty," said the Judge yesterday, "laid most heavily on the poor people of my district. It is made up of the Seventh, Eleventh and Thirteenth wards and extends from Catharine street to Fourteenth street and Avenue B to the East River. In this district alone 8,825 families were impoverished, and they averaged at least four members each, making a total of 35,300 homeless ones."

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DESPAIR OF IDLE MINDS.

Continued from First Page.

Warden Sage and Chief keeper Connaughton were summoned instantly, and found proof of the excellence of the prison discipline in the fact that the other prisoners were standing in line awaiting orders. They had not been excited by the tragic occurrence, but the mark of despondency was in the faces of every man who were returned to their cells and Hoffman was removed to a hospital.

In his cell was found a letter showing that the suicide was premeditated. It read in part as follows: "My Dear Parents, Relatives and Friends: The reason I have taken my life is because I could not fight the battle of despair any more; so I thought I had better end my misery immediately. Chief Keeper Connaughton, who, although stern as duty requires, finds that discipline is not endangered by the prison officials because of despondency due to his idleness. I never knew him before, however, to be despondent. He was inclined to be nervous, and was therefore more easily affected than men of different temperament. Having nothing to do and therefore dreaming all the time of his condition, may have driven him to despair, and I am inclined to think it did, but that is merely a surmise. I think that probably the young man's mind was

Idle Brain the Devil's Workshop. "An idle brain," continued Mr. Connaughton, "is the devil's workshop. Now, when the brain is that of a prisoner you can imagine what is going on in it. Some will think of resentment. They will plot to get even with the men who sent them to prison. Discipline is so rigid here that we are not afraid of any effort at an outbreak, but were the conditions more lenient the idle men would undoubtedly plot to get free. Others become despondent. They can only bear the idleness of a week, and a man doesn't get desperate in that time. But if work is not eventually provided for the prisoners the monotonous life will make them morose and sullen."

They now read a great deal, but they will soon get tired of that. Then they will drift into the hands of the idle men, and those of a despondent turn will have to be watched carefully to see that they do not harm themselves. We are now keeping a close watch on the idle prisoners to prevent suicide, but there are so many subterfuges they can adopt that a desperate man can manage to find some way of killing himself."

"While prisoners are working their minds are on the work, and they continue thinking about it after they go to their cells. When they are taken out for exercise the feeding is shown by the fact that Warden Sage receives appeals daily from convicts for something to do. The boxes in the corridors, marked 'messengers for the Warden,' in which any prisoner may drop a note, have been loaded down with requests for work."

As soon as the new administration building is finished there will be less work for the convicts than there is now. John X. McKane is one of the fortunate ones, who are employed in the building. He was directing a gang of carpenters yesterday afternoon, and worked with as much vigor as when he constructed new pavilions at the island before the opening of a season.

Tried Suicide at Crow Hill. Warden Patrick Hayes, of the Kings County Penitentiary, takes the ground that sufficient time had not elapsed to test the new law compelling convicts to be idle. There was an attempt at suicide in the penitentiary Wednesday night, but the Warden does not believe was enforced idleness that prompted the man to the act. Others do not agree with him. The man was John Holmes, who had been committed for vagrancy. He seemed ill-tempered enough until late Wednesday night, when one of the turnkeys, peering into his cell, found him apparently asleep on his cot. The turnkey thought it was strange, and opening the cell door, began an investigation. He found that the man had cut one of the arteries of his wrist and was slowly bleeding to death.

"In connection with the new law and the attempt at suicide," Warden Hayes said, "for the man had not been idle long enough. He only came in here Monday, of course, enforced idleness tends to suicidal inclinations. I consider it necessary to keep the minds of prisoners occupied. Labor kept them occupied to a great extent, but I do not think we should decide on a six days' test. I think they should be kept busy at something. Let them perform such work as will least affect outside labor. Let them do something in which there is little profit, but keep them occupied."

"Since the new law went into effect I have the prisoners exercised two hours and twenty minutes a day. They tramp in the open air one hour and ten minutes in the morning and the same length of time in the afternoon. If the weather is stormy the exercise is taken in the corridor. The idea is to give them sufficient exercise to tire the body, but what they lack is something to occupy the mind."

TO ABANDON HIS BIG FARM. H. McK. Twombly, After Spending \$1,500,000 on It, to Close the Place.

Madison, N. J., Jan. 8.—H. McK. Twombly, after having expended over \$1,500,000 on the big farm of 700 acres in this vicinity, has decided to close it for an indefinite period. The greater part of the land where the large farm buildings now stand was a swamp when Mr. Twombly bought it. He has drained the place thoroughly, and it is now one of the finest farms in New Jersey.

The buildings upon the land alone cost an immense sum. The stable is furnished with electric lights throughout, and has accommodations for 200 horses. It is rumored that Mr. Twombly may entirely abandon the place.

NEW ORDER STOPS BELLEVUE ABUSES.

Superintendent Murphy Hears from President Croft.

No More Patients Go to the Insane Pavilion Except by a Court's Order.

Official Investigation by the Board of Charities to Follow the Journal's Exposures.

THE COMMISSIONER'S FIRST STEPS.

Although Busy All Day Yesterday with the White Trial, He Still Found Time to Issue an Order on This Subject.

Superintendent Murphy, do not receive any other patients for the insane pavilion at Bellevue Hospital unless they are regularly committed by some court. I shall issue a written order upon the subject within the next few days, but, in the meantime, this notification will serve as your instructions on the subject. Verbal order of S. B. Croft, President of the Board of Charities, given to Superintendent Murphy, Bellevue Hospital, yesterday.

Commissioner S. B. Croft, president of the Board of Charities, issued the order yesterday which puts an end to the practice, disclosed by the Journal, under which men and women have been imprisoned in the insane pavilion at Bellevue Hospital without even the semblance of authority.

President Croft was engaged all day in the hearing of the charges against Morgue Keeper White, and did not have time to prepare written orders in regard to the future conduct of the insane pavilion, but he considered the question of such vital importance as to brook no delay. In order that an immediate stop might be put to the methods that have been in vogue, he took Superintendent Murphy, of Bellevue, who was present as a witness in the White case, to one side as soon as he had left the stand and gave him verbal instructions not to receive any other patients for the insane pavilion at the hospital unless they are regularly committed by some magistrate.

Nor did Commissioner Croft let the matter rest at that. He believes that the disclosures made by the Journal call for an official investigation of abuses that have undoubtedly prevailed in the conduct of the Bellevue insane pavilion. With that conviction as his guide, he has already begun an inspection of the records in order to cover to what extent these abuses prevailed. At the conclusion of the White hearing yesterday he said:

"I have been so much engrossed today with this trial, which had previously been set for this date, that I have not had time to prepare a written order in regard to the future conduct of the insane pavilion. I have, however, taken occasion to give Superintendent Murphy verbal instructions not to receive any more patients for the pavilion without the authority of some court. Whenever a person's mind is so affected that he or she becomes violent, it is natural to presume that he or she will be promptly committed by a magistrate. If the insanity is of a mild form, the victim should be and will be accorded a trial before some regularly constituted court before being sent to the insane pavilion. I have taken steps looking toward an investigation of the matter in all its phases, and will in a few days supply my verbal order to Superintendent Murphy with a written order of a regular court, a practical step to the incarceration of innocent sane or harmlessly despondent men or women who may be taken to Bellevue Hospital by an ignorant or irresponsible person. It is the direct outcome of the Journal's exposure of the condition of affairs at this public institution, and will undoubtedly result in a reform which will appeal to sensible and humane persons everywhere."

COMING EVENTS. An entertainment and dance will be given by the members of New York Lodge No. 1, B. P. O. Elks, in the Casino Opera House, 837-seventh street and Third avenue, on January 13.

Arrangements are being made by the Entertainment Committee of the Harlem Wheelmen for their second annual dinner and ball, to be held in the Lenox Lyceum, Madison avenue and Fifty-ninth street, on January 15.

The annual meeting of the Pilgrim Church Society will be held at 8 o'clock on Tuesday evening, when two trustees will be elected. An informal dance, the second of a series arranged by the Young People's League of the Holy Infant Asylum, will be given in the Tugend, 275-ninth street and Madison avenue, on January 23.

Preparations are being made by the members of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Harlem Eye, Ear and Throat Infirmary for a charity progressive-entire party and dance, to be held in the Twelfth Ward Bank Building, Lenox avenue and One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street, on January 27.

"Lafayette and Other French Heroes in the American War of Independence" will be the subject of a lecture to be delivered by Mrs. Westwood at the Hotel Waldorf Monday morning at 11 o'clock.

Cards are out announcing the third annual entertainment and dance of the Stephen McKean Association, to be held at New Irving Hall, No. 214 Houston street, on January 12.

The members of the Young Men's Lyceum, connected with the Church of the Holy Cross, on West Forty-second street, will give their fourth annual musical and literary entertainment in the Lenox Lyceum Wednesday evening next.



PROPOSED RAILROAD TUNNEL AND SURFACE CONNECTIONS FROM CORTLANDT STREET TO JAMAICA, L. I.

THIS project was conceived by Austin Corbin and is to be executed by a syndicate of millionaires. The details were partially outlined yesterday in the report of the Commission appointed in Brooklyn to prepare a plan for the abolition of steam railroad traffic on Atlantic avenue, that city. The proposition is to have a low level station at Cortlandt street, New York, 70 feet below ground, connecting with the elevated roads and the streets by means of elevators; the tunnels being carried thence on that level to a station at Maiden lane and Pearl street; connecting with the Second and Third avenue railroads; thence under the East River, under Pincapple street and Fulton street to a station near the City Hall, Brooklyn; from thence under Fulton street and Flatbush avenue to Flatbush avenue depot, going into a depressed station at Flatbush avenue station about 18 feet below grade. The tunnel will be carried under the Brooklyn streets within the curb lines, to a station at the City Hall, which will be 115 feet below the street grade, and will rise by an easy grade from that point so that the bottom of the tunnel shall come above the main relief sewer at Flatbush avenue and Hanson place, before passing into the depressed station. Continuing from Flatbush avenue depot the tracks are depressed to Bedford avenue, a distance of 6,700 feet. From the east side of Bedford avenue the railroad tracks will rise in an open cut, to the grade of the street, and, continuing to rise, will pass on to an elevated railway structure, which at Nostrand avenue will attain such height that full head room will be provided for all street traffic without interference. It is stated that the running time from the Cortlandt street terminus, in New York, to the City Hall station, in Brooklyn, will be four minutes; to Flatbush avenue six and a half minutes; to Nostrand avenue, nine and a half minutes; to Manhattan Crossing, in the Twenty-sixth Ward, fourteen minutes, and to Jamaica, twenty-one minutes.