

TOPICS IN NEW YORK.

Vote-Buyers Have a New Method of Influencing Elections.

BRIBING OPPONENTS NOT TO REGISTER.

A Practice Resulting from the Adoption of a Stringent Hallet Law—Lieutenant-Governor Jones Again Causing Cesslessness—Sir Edwin Arnold's Visit. (Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.)

New York, Oct. 21.—Within the past few days a great fuss has been made by the republican papers over discoveries of alleged plots for fraudulent registration and colonization in this city. It is the usual great cry and little wool experience. Nowhere is fraudulent voting to any extent so difficult as in New York and Brooklyn, the two great democratic centres. The election and registration boards are equally divided between the two parties, and no one can vote unless his name is personally put on the registry list. These lists are all printed over a week before the election takes place, and are easily verified by the district captains of the voting districts, who, of course, make it their special business to know where every vote is located and to which side it belongs.

The futility of any scheme to inflate the normal vote of either side that would not be discovered in half an hour after the lists are open for public inspection, in a place like New York, where practical politics has been reduced to so exact a science, can be seen at a glance. The truth is that the cry is raised against New York city to divert attention from the "blocks of five" programme that usually prevails in the rural and alleged virtuous republican interior counties. The farming districts of New York have for years been shamelessly and notoriously corrupt. Whole sections have, year after year, been checked off in the campaign books with each voter's price plainly marked in commonplace figures.

After years of agitation the operations of a registry law have been extended to the country districts, and this, with the new ballot, has somewhat hampered the old-fashioned open sale of votes. But the practical politician has solved this difficulty in a novel way. In place of selling his vote the thrifty farmer now, for the current rate, ranging from \$2 to \$3, is bribed not to register; then, of course, he can't vote, and the same end is accomplished in a negative way. In the last election nearly half a million citizens registered in the State who failed to vote. The plan has, therefore, many exceptional advantages. A man can more easily be bribed to keep his name off the list than to sell his vote, and a strict tally can be kept, which is now impossible with the new ballot.

The republican campaign managers are boasting that from their present outlook they will come down to the Harlem with 50,000 majority, or 6,000 more than Harrison had, and that they cannot be beaten here.

JONES IS NOW GOVERNOR.

The politicians are in a big flutter over the announcement that Lieut.-Gov. Edward F. Jones will act as Governor of New York during the absence of Governor Hill in Atlanta, Ga., at the unveiling of the statue of Henry W. Grady. Mr. Jones is still confined to a dark room at the Park Avenue Hotel on account of his eyes, and could not be seen today. A note was sent up to his room this morning asking him if it was true that he intended to act as Governor while Governor Hill was away, and if he would say anything about the appointments he intended to make. In a short time he sent back the following written reply: "The constitution of the State of New York provides that in the absence from the State of the Governor the powers and duties shall devolve upon the Lieutenant-Governor. I will exercise the functions of the office to such extent as the public good may require. I have nothing to say for publication regarding specific intentions."

One of the things Mr. Jones could do under the law would be to fill a vacant judgeship of the Court of Common Pleas in this city, but his admirers say that it is not likely that so astute a politician as David H. Hill has left Jones such a chance to wreak his vengeance. Men who are in a position to know say that the Governor's private secretary, Col. T. B. Williams, has an appointment signed and sealed stowed away in his desk, which he will produce should the Lieutenant-Governor assume the powers of the Governor.

MANY PRESENTS FOR BABY CLEVELAND.

Since Miss Ruth Cleveland has been "at home" in the parental mansion in Madison avenue, the rattle and rumble of express and delivery wagons up to the Cleveland mansion has been almost uninterrupted. The influx of baby presents has been so extensive and constant that a small room on the third floor has been arranged with tables for their proper reception. The array covers the full scope of everything possible in child's playthings and necessities. Probably not a State from Maine to California has been left unrepresented in the giving of a present for the ex-President's wee baby girl. Most of the gifts are from Mr. Cleveland's political friends, but almost as many are testimonies of admiration for the woman who stood at the social and domestic helm of the White House so successfully while yet hardly out of her girlhood.

A BROKER SHOOTS HIMSELF.

The Clarendon Hotel, at Washington and Johnson streets, Brooklyn, was the scene of a desperate attempt at suicide today. William T. Whitehouse, a well-known broker, sent a pistol bullet into his head with a suicidal determination that is likely to prove successful. Whitehouse was on the floor of the Consolidated Exchange, New York, today. He was on the bear side of the market, and at the opening of the board prices were against him. Calls for margins were made, and he responded to one of them and then left the exchange. He went direct to his hotel in Brooklyn and there saw the way the market was going and decided to commit suicide. Other calls for margins were made after he left the board. There was no response, and about 1,000 shares were bought in under the rule. Whitehouse is said to have been short of about 8,000 shares of stock. He was also heavily short on the New York Stock Exchange.

MR. CLEVELAND LOOKING WELL.

Now that ex-President Cleveland is seen so much more in public than has been usual, the change for the better in his personal appearance is the constant theme of comment. He is by no means as stout as he was, and walks the streets with a quick, firm step that indicates how well he feels.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD'S VISIT.

The steamer City of New York, unless detained, will probably reach her dock tomorrow morning from Liverpool, and land here the famous poet, Sir Edwin Arnold, who will deliver a course of fifty lectures in the principal cities of the United States and Canada. A banquet in honor of Sir Edwin will be given by the Lotus Club on the evening of October 21, and many distinguished men will be present.

The first and only lecture in this city will be in aid of St. Mark's Hospital. The subject of the lecture will be "Ancient and Medieval India."

A CUT IN SUGAR.

War has been declared between the Franklin Sugar Refining Company of Philadelphia and the American Sugar Refining Company of New York. The Philadelphia refiners made a cut in prices last Friday. The New York people met the cut yesterday, and granulated sugar was selling at 42-14, a decline of 2-14 per cent. A further decline is looked for. The only reason assigned for the cut is that holders had had big stocks and wanted to unload. The market is demoralized.

Willett & Gray say: The refined sugar market is again demoralized by the breaking out of a sharp competition between New York and Philadelphia refiners. Granulated sugar, which was 4 1/2 cents last week, has been dropped to 4 cents, less 2, or say 3 1/2 cts. net cash, the very lowest point at which it has ever sold. Philadelphia led the decline and New York followed.

BACKER'S DEBTS AND ASSETS.

Schedules of Abraham Backer, the noted broker, in his assignment to Benjamin F. Einstein, were filed this afternoon in the Court of Common Pleas. His total debts and liabilities, including secured and unsecured debts, are \$1,000,000. The unsecured debts amount to \$643,321. There are contingent liabilities of \$1,012,180. The nominal assets amount to \$1,411,707, but the assignee has only \$414,709 to apply to the payment of unsecured creditors.

ABDUCTOR WILSON'S HEAVY SENTENCE.

Sylvester Franklin Wilson, the projector of female base-ball teams, who was convicted last week of abducting fifteen-year-old Libbie Sutherland from her home in Singhamton, was sentenced today in Part I General Sessions by Judge Martine to five years in State prison and to pay a fine of \$1,000 or stand a day committed for each dollar until the last dollar is paid. Wilson was thunderstruck when he heard the sentence and was unable to speak.

NOTES OF THE DAY.

The American Gaillard Association, which is in session at Footlight Ritz Hall, elected the following officers for the ensuing year at this morning's session: President, W. H. White, of New York; vice-presidents, A. B. Boardman, Macon, Ga.; W. H. Pearson, Toronto, Ont., and Walter Clark, of Philadelphia; secretary and treasurer, A. B. Slater, of Providence, R. I.

Henry E. Hoag, dealer in hat specialties at 128 South Fifth avenue, made an assignment today to Louis Lowenstein, without preference.

Fire broke out in the Wallabout market, in Brooklyn, at midnight last night, and it took the firemen until daylight today to extinguish the flames. Most of the buildings in the market are one-story frame structures, and they fell an easy prey to the flames. Nearly half of the buildings in the market were burned to the ground. The total loss is estimated at \$45,000, which is covered by insurance.

Cassius Morey, a reporter, formerly employed on one of the New York dailies, shot Annie Ward, a woman of twenty-eight years, in their lodging this evening. Morey then shot himself. She was wounded under the left eye, the bullet entering her head. His wounds in the right shoulder, and not so serious as the woman's. Both were taken to a hospital.