

# AUTOCRATIC POWER OF NEW YORK'S MAYOR

## Head of a Great Community Where There Is a Birth Every Six and a Death Every Seven Minutes



CITY HALL, NEW YORK, WHERE MAYOR HAS OFFICE



OTTO T. BANNARD, REPUBLICAN TUESDAY NOMINEE



WILLIAM R. HEARST, CREDIT ALLIANCE NOMINEE

BY JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS.  
THE whole land will sit up and take notice on election night of the three-cornered Mayorship fight in Greater New York.

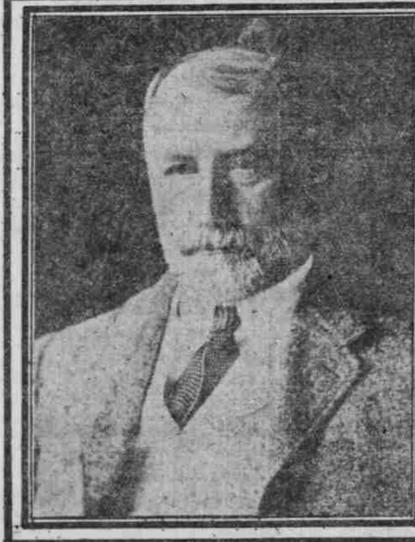
The berth at state has attached to it more authority power than any other American office short of the Presidency itself, and the salary which the victor will draw during his term is a half again as great as that given any Governor of these sovereign states of ours. Indeed, if salary be the gauge for comparison, that of Mayor of New York City is half again as big an office as that of Governor of New York State—is bigger even than the office of Vice-President, Chief Justice, Cabinet member, Senator or Representative of the United States—is more exalted than the berth of any Federal official in Washington except the President, for whereas the Mayor of New York City receives \$15,000 a year, the Nation's Chief Justice gets but \$13,000 its Vice-President and Cabinet officers but \$12,000; Senators and Representatives but \$7,000, and the Governor of New York State is paid but \$10,000.

**Patronage of Presidential Size.**  
Verily, the new Mayor's direct patronage will compare favorably with that of President Taft himself. His private secretary will receive \$500 per year, or \$100 more than Mr. Taft's secretary receives, and his chief legal adviser—the corporation counsel—will draw \$15,000, or \$300 more per year than President Taft's chief legal adviser, the Attorney-General of the United States. Then there will be a Cabinet officer's salary at \$12,000 for a city chamberlain and three members of the water supply board, while six other bureaucrats will get \$10,000 each; two will get \$8,000; 11 will draw \$7,000; Root's and Depew's Senatorial salary figure of \$15,000; seven will be given \$7,000; eight, \$6,000; 18, \$5,000; and the number claiming \$5,000

plums will reach 37, while 31 will be content with from \$500 to \$300. In almost every case the salary is higher than that for the corresponding office in the Federal establishment. This annual expenditure on salaries has long amounted to a shameful prodigality. Indeed, after the Greater New York charter went into effect in 1897, scores of newly appointed officeholders spent several months indolently endeavoring to find something to do.

**How Power Has Grown.**  
The autocratic powers of New York's Mayor have steadily grown since we set ourselves up in the business of self-government. In colonial days he was appointed by the Governor and met for a generation after independence, by what was known as the State Council of Appointment. But a point for home rule was gained in 1821 when the Common Council of New York City was given the power of choosing the Mayor. Indeed, he was not elected by popular vote until 1838, and appointments were subject to confirmation by the Board of Aldermen until 1884. Still more powers were added in 1896, when he was given absolute authority to remove his own appointees during their first six months in office. After that time his removal had to be approved by the Governor. But in 1901, the uncontrolled power of removal over all of his appointees throughout his term. Thus Governor Hughes did not have to consent to the removal of Police Commissioner Bligham this Summer, as would have been the case nine years ago. This generous charter amendment of 1901 also repealed the old provision requiring the Mayor to call a special election, and this repeal allowed McClellan his three terms. But at the same time the Mayor's term was reduced from four to two years, and the direct powers of the bureaucrats more than it lessens the autocracy of his honor himself.

**More Autocratic Than Ever.**  
He is more of an autocrat than ever before. Thus George B. McClellan has arbitrarily closed up theaters as unsafe and exercised his one-man power to perform other acts affecting large investments of capital. And the Mayor of New York has the chief responsibility in directing the expenditure of a vast annual budget, sometimes one-third as much as that of the Federal Government, and greater than the combined budgets of any other five cities in the country. The new autocrat of Greater New York



GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN, DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE



CHARLES F. MURPHY, CHIEF OF TAMMANY HALL

will be free to exercise this rule over twice as many people as there are in Norway; 2,000,000 more than there are in Denmark or Serbia or Greece—over a million more than dwell in Switzerland. Indeed, the population of our metropolis is as great today as that of the kingdom of Saxony. Twenty-six independent nations of the earth have fewer people—the most of these, far fewer, indeed, than the school teachers of the metropolis alone

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outrank the standing armies of Denmark and Chile combined, while the 978 policemen of this biggest city of ours could more than replace the standing army of Venezuela. For a fact, New York's 400 firemen form a bigger force than the whole Danish or Swedish or Greek navy, or the standing armies of Peru or Nicaragua. And here are enough people from New York's city payroll to populate another Springfield, Ill., or Topeka, Kan. Such is the vastness of this city wherein a marriage occurs every 14, a death ever seven and a birth every six minutes of every day.

**Candidates Compared.**  
Of the three mayoralty candidates in this interesting fight, William J. Gaynor is the eldest, being 68, while William R. Hearst is a dozen years his junior, or 46, and Otto T. Bannard comes in between the two, being 53. Gaynor is a native of Whitestown, N. Y., a graduate of Brooklyn College and San Francisco. Bannard was at Yale with Taft, but was a junior when the latter came in as a freshman and was graduated two years ahead of the future President. Bannard then took a post-graduate course in law at Columbia. Hearst went to Harvard, but was suspended for a prank and didn't go back. Gaynor, as a farm boy, attended the district schools and later a seminary. He began his career as a schoolmaster in St. Louis and Boston, while Bannard started right in as a young barrister and Hearst got his ink on his fingers and began to edit and propagate the Sun. Bannard also did his turn at journalism, leaving his school in Boston to become a reporter in Brooklyn. It was due to his assignment upon law cases that he took up the study of Blackstone while still laboring in the ranks of the fourth estate. While Hearst was editor of San Francisco, Bannard was in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, he was also serving in Congress, running for mayor in 1896, as now, and for Governor a year afterwards. Bannard making himself president of the New York Trust Company and director of a tube mill, an insurance enterprise and a securities company. All this while Gaynor was busy at the law.

**All Known as Reformers.**  
All three of these men have been known to their followers as reformers. While Hearst has fought for municipal ownership of public utilities and has been strenuous in demanding legislation, litigation and other efforts to curb theotopos, Gaynor has proclaimed himself a foe to corruption and a demolisher of "rings" within the party of his allegiance. He has written and spoken against the brutality of the police and it was his charge that the police had persecuted an innocent lad that brought about the resignation of Police Commissioner Bligham last Summer. But what brought Gaynor his greatest glory was his successful fight against "Boss" John V. McKane, whom he had convicted for election frauds, and this victory led at once to the attorney's nomination by Republicans and Independent Democrats to the Supreme Court of New York, to which he has been twice re-elected. While his present rivals have been thus acquitting themselves, Mr. Bannard, who is still a bachelor, has served as commissioner of education under Mayor Strong, and has been vice-president of the Charity Organization Society. He was also instrumental in the founding of the celebrated philanthropic pawnshop, known as the Provident Loan Society, whereas the poor of Greater New York may obtain loans on their personal property at one-third of the pawnbrokers' rate. But a fourth man who has as much at stake in this campaign as any of the three candidates is Charles F. Murphy, the ex-saloonkeeper whom Croker made commissioner of docks and ferries and who was chairman of the Tammany Democracy for 10 years prior to his succession as chief of Tammany Hall seven years ago. Murphy is now 61, while Taft, many has celebrated its 120th birthday the year.

## Did You Ever Try a Corn-Fed Oyster?

Delicacy of the South County of Rhode Island That Excels All Other Bivalves.

Did you ever eat a corn-fed oyster? If not you have missed the finest fruit of the ocean bears, says a Providence correspondent of the New York Sun. For, and the statement is advanced deliberately, there is no oyster in this or any other country that can compare with the corn-fed oyster in delicacy of flavor, in plumpness and grace of figure, or in the soft beauty of its coloring.

So seductive and altogether delightful is the corn-fed oyster that only with great difficulty is it possible to write or speak of it in the cold phraseology of pure science. There is just one drawback to perfect enjoyment of this marvelous shellfish, namely, that it cannot be purchased. It therefore becomes a public duty to point out how everybody may enjoy corn-fed oysters at a smaller expenditure than is necessary for the inferior fish market variety.

It is at this season that Rhode Island families which cling to the good old customs of half a century ago—mainly those of the South county, and not a great many even there—lay in their winter supplies of oysters. In some households this is an autumn duty equal in importance with husking the corn, harvesting the turkeys and stocking the cellar with a barrel or two of cider made from home-grown apples, the Spring remainder of which turned to vinegar, will serve to give zest to the boiled dinner.

use so seldom—he could usually borrow someone else's, and if he did not care to do it was possible in those halcyon days to pick up a barrel or so of oysters from the tide.

When the oyster gatherers have returned to their homes the first thing to do is to prepare the catch so that it will keep and grow fat until called for. Each oyster is laid with the convex side of the shell downward. The object of this is to enable the animal to retain its liquor without a continual muscular strain in keeping its shell closed.

The oysters may be stored in a box, barrel or on the earth floor of the cellar. The prime requisite is that the places where they are kept shall be fairly cool without danger of freezing during the cold weather to come. A dampened burp is laid down and the shellfish are placed on this. The burp is placed on the floor of a restaurant window, but without the chunk of ice at the top of the pile.

on their investment. Out of this conclusion has arisen the present practice of leasing portions of the bed of the bay suitable for oysters.

The difference between the free fisherman and the leasing fisherman is that the latter takes care of the beds, while the free fisherman, careless of the interests of others, strips a bed and leaves it void, with no hope of another crop for years to come.

It is reasonable to believe that the practice of this and other states of leasing oyster beds is responsible for maintaining oysters at 40 cents a quart. A quarter of a century ago they brought 80 cents a quart, but today, in the face of an upward tendency in almost every kind of food the movement of oyster prices is downward rather than upward.

Nevertheless the free fishermen of Rhode Island, a few of whom still manage to make a living by oystering on ground inside of a six-foot depth of water at low tide, which the Shellfish Commission has established as the limit of leasing positions, and many other persons in the state think they have a good case against the lease system. They base it on a paragraph of the charter which King Charles II granted to the state in 1683. It reads:

"Our express will and pleasure is, and we do by these presents for us, our heirs and successors ordain and provide that these presents shall not in any manner hinder any of our loving subjects whatsoever from using and exercising the trade of fishing upon the coast of New England, in America; but that they and every or any one of them shall have full and free power and liberty to continue and use the trade of fishing upon the said coast in any of the seas thereunto adjoining, or any arms of the seas, or salt waters, rivers and creeks where they have been accustomed to fish the charter and usage of this state."

**Mystery of Microorganisms.**  
Everybody's Magazine. Microorganisms in their way are of all sizes. Thus, that bacterium which is the dread of every surgeon, the Staphylococcus aureus, can hold a mass-meeting of 8,000,000,000 on the tip of a lancet. By a device called a cytometer they can be counted, no matter how numerous, with greater accuracy than that with which census officials can report the population of New York or of Chicago. But this Staphylococcus is a large bacterium compared with that dread of physicians, Pfeiffer's influenza bacillus, which is as

## Some Examples of Prodigious Memory

Well Authenticated Instances of Remarkable Retentiveness by Educated Men.

**WRITERS** on psychology and philosophy have cited many examples of prodigious memory. No doubt some of these are exaggerations, others are fabulous, and only a comparatively few admit of verification. An investigation has found three cases so well authenticated that they may be used to illustrate the wonderful power of a well-cultivated memory in a mind of strong native endowment. In each instance, too, in no way to have retarded the fullest development of other mental powers.

Probably the most remarkable of the three was the memory of Leonard Euler. Euler was a native of Basle, but most of his life was spent in St. Petersburg. He was born in 1707 and died in 1783. He was a teacher of great power and a most prolific writer. More than half of the 42 quarto volumes of mathematics published by the St. Petersburg Academy between 1777 and 1783 were from his pen. At his death he left more than 300 manuscript treatises.

In the later years of his life he was totally blind. Then, and probably earlier, too, he carried in his memory a table of the first six powers of the "series of natural numbers up to 100." It is related that on one occasion two of his students attempted to calculate a converging series.

As they progressed they found disagreement in their results. Disagreement by a unit at the 50th figure. The question was referred to Euler, who decided to make the calculation. He did this mentally and his result was found to be correct.

It was not only in mathematics that Euler gave proof of a prodigious memory. He was well read in general literature and was an excellent classical scholar. Virgil was one of his favorite writers. It is said that he knew this author so well that he could repeat the *Eneid* "from beginning to end without hesitation, and indicate the first and last line of every page of the edition he used."

The 17th century furnishes the other two instances, which warrant special attention. The first is that of the Italian scholar, Antonio da Marco Magliabechi. Magliabechi was the literary prodigy of his time. Royalty and other distinguished personages paid tribute to his wonderful learning. His contemporaries have said that his memory was so prodigious that he was able to retain verbatim most of the contents of his "multitudinous books."

A comparatively recent writer has declared that Magliabechi could name all the authors that had written upon any subject, giving the name of the book, the words and after a page. This is doubtless exaggeration, but, on the other hand, it should be remembered that the number of books on any subject were much fewer than at the present day. Besides this, there are two instances that have come down from Magliabechi's time to ours that give color to his truth. On one occasion a gentleman of Florence desired to test Magliabechi's memory and ascertain for himself whether the wonderful stories told were truth or fiction. He gave him a manuscript to read; then, some days after its return, pretending to have lost it, he asked Magliabechi to recall it, which, it is said, he did with remarkable exactness. At another time the Grand Duke of Florence asked if he could procure a certain book for him. Immediately came the response—"No, sire; it is impossible; there is but one in the world; that is in the grand seigneur's library at Constantinople, and as the seventh book on the seventh shelf on the right hand as you go in."

The other instance in the 17th century is that of the Dr. John Wallis. It is not, however, as a theologian that Wallis' name is enrolled in the temple of fame, but as a mathematician. In mathematical history he ranks as the greatest of Newton's English precursors. He was started on his mathematical career by reading Oughtred's "Clavis Mathematica," but the special bent of his genius came from Torricelli's writings on the Method of Indivisibles. To this he applied the Cartesian analysis and produced his great work, "The Arithmetica Indivisibilium"—"the most stimulating mathematical work so far published in England. Here he makes the successful attempt to solve a number of the more simple problems of the calculus by the summation of series to infinity. The work was one of great influence. Newton read it while an undergraduate at the university, and from it immediately derived his binomial formula. The power of concentration and his memory were both very strong with Wallis. So strong it is said, that on one occasion, "while in bed in the dark, he extracted the square root of a number of 53 places to exactness, and repeated the result 30 days afterward."

These examples of retentive memory are quite well authenticated and give plausibility to the possible truth of the frequently cited Pliny tale of that Cypus the Great knew the names of all his soldiers, and Cicero in his "De Senectute" says that Themistocles could call by name the 20,000 citizens of Athens. From Cicero, too, we learn something of the remarkable memory of Sophocles. This chap has a throtle in his hand, and there's never a tickle turn to steer; I hold the ribbons, understand that and a shogun always rested near; No light gleamed on the raint, sought I when I was the one who carried mail. The engineer sits as warm as toast, which perchance he'll get into his nose. And many's the time I've looked the ghost when the borderer swept the plains across— That engine, nitless, frozen plain. That whisks past through the window pane. ARTHUR CHAPMAN.