

the cellar yesterday morning, where it had been dropped by the thieves in their flight. A large bundle of clothing and bed-curtains, all packed ready for removal, was found in the parlor. The thieves were no doubt disturbed by the servant girl, who, hearing a noise during the night, got up and called Mr. Mason. The family were terribly sick yesterday from the effects of the chloroform. The loss is about \$500. The thieves, in their search, fortunately overlooked a solid silver dinner service. A few nights previous an attempt was made to rob the residence of Mr. Peck, on the Flushing road. Mr. Peck shot at the burglars, but with what effect is not known, as they made good their escape.

SAMANA BAY MATTERS.

RUMORED SEIZURE OF THE COMPANY'S PROPERTY BY THE DOMINICANS—THE REPORT NOT CONFIRMED.

The report circulated yesterday to the effect that the Dominican Government had in March last taken possession of Samana Bay and hauled down the American flag, on the ground that the company had failed to pay its pledged subsidy of \$150,000, appears on examination to rest on light foundations. In the course of the afternoon a *Times* reporter called upon Messrs. P. M. Spofford & Co., the parties most interested, but without finding them in any way aware of the alleged disaster which had befallen their interests. Visits were also made to Mr. D. A. De Lima, the Consul of the Dominican Republic in this City, at his office, No. 23 Wilham street; Messrs. A. Nunes & Co., No. 28 Beaver street; the Messrs. Thebaud, Nos. 64 and 68 Broad street; and the Messrs. Dovale, No. 28 South street, all houses having correspondents in San Domingo or Puerto Plata the seat of the Dominican Government, and all of which were entirely ignorant of the alleged seizure, although in the receipt of advices from those localities up to April 7, 8, and 9, more than a week later than the date of the alleged dispatch which was dated Puerto Plata, March 30. Mr. Nunes, of the firm of A. Nunes & Co., who arrived from St. Thomas by the last steamer, and who has extensive business dealings with both Samana and Puerto Plata, had heard nothing whatever of the supposed capture of the company's property. The Captain of the steamer South America, which arrived at this port on Saturday last from St. Thomas, was also in the same predicament, although leaving St. Thomas on the 13th, two weeks after the date of the reported "seizure." The only intelligence looking at all like a confirmation of the report is contained in a paragraph from the St. Thomas *Fidende* of April 4, in which allusion is made to the decree of amendment of the Samana Bay Company's lease, with the additional announcement that orders had been issued by the Dominican Government for taking possession of the company's property and rehoisting the Dominican flag, and that the said orders had been executed on the 25th. Messrs. Dovale & Co., before mentioned, are in receipt of letters from Samana of the 28th three days afterward, in which no mention is made of the seizure, though it is stated that a Dominican man-of-war is "hourly expected" in the bay to take possession of the property of the company and haul down their flag. This, or something similar, seems to have formed the ground-work of the rumor. At all events, there seems to be little doubt that the tenure by which the company hold their Samana Bay property is extremely precarious.

BROOKLYN LABORERS.

The labor question in Brooklyn is assuming limited but excitable proportions. The Park Commission used to be the main official employer of laborers. But the park being finished, its revenue is reduced to the maintenance account. The difference between that and the constructive account of former years is the difference between \$125,000 a year for four parks and \$500,000 a year for one park—Prospect. The bulk of the city business for laboring men falls now on the Board of City Works. The labor account rarely reaches \$200,000 a year, the greater part of the improvements it supervises being let out to contractors, who employ their own men on their own terms. In all about 400 laborers, the personal political following of sundry Aldermen, look to the Board of City Works for employment. There is a hitch in the matter just now.

The working men in trades-unions enacted the Eight-hour law unto themselves some time ago. They are skilled workmen, in demand, and without much outside competition. Consequently they can, for the present, conform the public to their eight-hour propositions. No sooner had these tradesmen got an eight-hour law than the laborers got their "principals," the Aldermen, to ordain that eight hours should be the limit of a day's work for the city. But the charter at the same time provided that the wages of laborers, as to amounts and in what order of payment, should be prescribed by the heads of departments. The Board of City Works accepted the law making eight hours a day's work, and then made a law that they would pay laborers so much an hour. This is the rub. The Board of City Works wanted to fix things so that they would, for the city, get as much work out of laborers as contractors employing for themselves. The contractors pay \$1 50 a day for ten hours' work, or fifteen cents an hour. The Board of City Works offer the same price per hour. Thus if the laborers insist on working eight hours they simply get \$1 20 a day. If they elect to work ten hours a day, and there is nothing in the law to prevent them from doing so, they will receive \$1 50 a day. The struggle in the Board of Aldermen is to make the Board of City Works agree to pay as much for eight hours' work as the contractors pay for ten hours' work. The Board of City Works are protected by law from being forced, and they will not yield. In fact, a majority of the Board of Aldermen have so far steadily sustained them, though a growing minority oppose them, with a vigor proportioned to the nearness of election.

In the meantime, while the Board of City Works have no lack of outside applications for labor at \$1 50 for a day of ten hours, the regular force of Brooklyn laborers, whom the board would prefer stand out for \$1 50 for a day of eight hours, or nothing.

MARY ELLEN WILSON.

The examination in the case of the child Mary Ellen Wilson was continued yesterday, before Judge Donohue, in Supreme Court, Chambers. Mary Score, who transferred the child to the Commissioners of Charities, testified that the child was brought to her by a chamber-maid in the St. Nicholas Hotel, named Cavanagh, the latter stating that it was the child of a Fanny Wilson; saw Fanny Wilson, who said her husband had been an officer in "Billy" Wilson's Zouaves; she was offered \$2 a week, took the child and kept her for about a year, when the pay failed; she then went to Mrs. Cavanagh, who told her she could find Fanny Wilson at the Soldiers' Relief Office, in Eleventh street; there she found Fanny Wilson, who turned over the relief ticket to her, but this resource failed, and she was finally compelled to transfer the child to the Commissioner of Charities. She failed, on further examination, to disclose any clue by which Fanny Wilson could be discovered. She had but one interview with her, and Mrs. Cavanagh, who had brought the child to her, was now dead. The further hearing was adjourned to Monday next.

UNDERWRITERS' CONVENTION.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters will convene in annual session to-day at 11 A. M. The following is the prescribed programme:

1. Meeting called to order at 11 A. M.
2. Calling the roll.
3. Extending courtesy of floor to invited companies, general agents, and others.
4. Minutes of last annual meeting.
5. Annual report of Treasurer.
6. President's address.
7. Action upon recommendations and other matters connected with it.
8. Report of Executive Committee, Mr. S. Crowell, Chairman.
9. General Agent's report.
10. Action upon recommendation from Executive Committee.
11. Reports of Supervising Agents of the board, Messrs. W. S. Davis, Jacob Peetrey, R. J. Smith.
12. Reports of Standing Committees: On Finance—Mr. A. B. MacDonald, Chairman. On Legislation and Taxation—Mr. E. W. Crowell, Chairman. On Incendiarism and Arson—Mr. B. S. Walcott, Chairman. On Adjustments and Statistics—Mr. H. H. Hall, Chairman.
13. Appointment of special committee on nomination of officers and executive committee.
14. Appointment of special committees.
15. Reports of Select Committees: On Causes of Fire—Mr. J. M. Rankin, Chairman. On Form of Policy—Mr. B. M. Rankin, Chairman. On Gas Machines and Carburettors—Mr. Walton, Chairman.
16. Reports of Special Committees: On Constitution and By-laws—Mr. Oakley, Chairman. On Farm Board of New-York State—Mr. Chase, Chairman. On Local Agencies—Mr. Heald, Chairman.

SEARCHING FOR A FUGITIVE.

About two weeks ago Capt. Irving, of the Central Detective Office, received information from the Police authorities of Westphalia, Germany, to the effect that one Joseph Schwick, who had committed forgeries to a large amount, had fled from that country, and it was supposed had taken passage on one of the Hamburg or German steamers for this port. The case was placed in the hands of Detective Von Gerichten, of the Central Office, who for ten days past has been stationed at Quarantine watching for the arrival of Schwick. Yesterday Von Gerichten returned to this City, and reported to Capt. Irving that during his sojourn at Quarantine he had boarded all the incoming steamers, but had failed to discover among their passengers any person answering the description of the fugitive. It is therefore supposed that the Police of Westphalia are at fault in believing that Schwick had fled to this country.

BURGLARS AT WORK ON LONG ISLAND.

The residence of Mr. Thomas Mason, on Flushing street, near the convent in the village of Flushing, was entered by burglars on Monday night. They silenced a large watch-dog by means of chloroform, and also chloroformed the family, who were sleeping in the second story, after which they proceeded with their work of robbery. They took from Mr. Mason's bed-room a wallet containing \$40, and his gold watch and chain, the latter being found in