

ON THE NEW YORK PLAN.

THAT IS HOW MARSH ADVISED THE MAYOR TO RUN THE FORCE.

The Reason for Some of the Changes to Be Made—Pleas Wanted for More Men—Demoralization of the Present Force—Officers Frequenting Saloons in Parties, All in Uniform—How Unfortunates Are Blackmailed.

Mayor Cregier has had a scheme of police reform and reorganization for some time, and it may be presented to the Council either in the way of a message or as an ordinance through one of the administration Aldermen, Cullerton doubtless.

When the Mayor had fully made up his mind some time ago to appoint Marsh Superintendent he sent him East to study the police systems of New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. Mr. Marsh did not remain long in Boston or in Philadelphia. He spent a considerable time in New York and was much pleased with the system prevailing there. The police authorities of Gotham, Murray Williams and the others persuaded him it was the best in the world. When he came back he recommended that Mayor Cregier reorganize the Chicago police force on the New York plan. Mr. Cregier was nothing loth. He was glad to find a ready-made plan. He has adopted it, modified in some particulars by the exigencies of the demands of the politicians here.

THE PLAN.

The plan as modified will consist in the appointment of four inspectors, and it may be five, who will have jurisdiction under the Superintendent of the three divisions of the city and of the detective department. The duties of each inspector will be strictly defined, and within their own sphere they will be practically independent. The Captains in their respective jurisdictions will report to them and receive orders from them. The four or five will constitute the Superintendent's advisory board. They will also pass on charges against officers and will otherwise regulate the discipline of the force. Another feature of the change will be the distribution of an increased detective force among the various stations. Only a few picked men will be held at the Central Station for detective work. These will be in charge of Lieut. Elliott. These men will be selected as nearly as possible from the station officers.

It has not yet been determined whether the inspectors shall be appointed by the Superintendent or appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Council. The Aldermen will doubtless try to force the latter method that they may be able to dictate appointments. It is understood that the Mayor wishes that the Superintendent—that is to say, himself—should make the appointments. The increase of the number of officers will give him an opportunity to satisfy many dissatisfied ambitions. Inspector Ebersold will doubtless be retained in his present position to report to the Mayor that there is no gambling. Ex-Supt. George W. Hubbard will be made Inspector of the North Division, Lieut. John D. Shea will get the South Side Inspectorship, and Acting Capt. Ed. Langhlin will be made Inspector of the West Division. This will create a vacancy at the Desplains Street Station which will doubtless be filled by the appointment of Billy Ward. It is said that Simon O'Donnell will be retired, but his friends will make a strong fight against that.

Acting-Capt. Schuettler will be made a full Captain, though the Clan-na-Gael Aldermen and policemen are going to make a bitter fight against his promotion on account of his connection with the prosecution in the Cronin case.

But perhaps the most sinister feature of the proposed Cregier police plan is that which contemplates an addition of 500 men to the force. The old, old argument is made that Chicago has not as many policemen in proportion to its area as New York, Boston, and Philadelphia; that adequate protection of life and property requires an additional 500. The purpose of the plan, however, is to make way for the appointment of 500 additional policemen.

THE FIRST WORK TO BE DONE.

Supt. Marsh has given it out that after he takes hold Jan. 1 the rank and file of the department will be so reorganized and disciplined that it will be practically a new force. Not only the public but every faithful and self-respecting officer on the force will heartily approve of every step in that direction. It is almost safe to say that there is not in the land a more thoroughly demoralized and indifferent body. The men themselves feel this and know it, and would not, probably if they could, prevent it. For this condition of things well a dozen reasons might be given. Chief Hubbard cannot be blamed, for his authority was only nominal. The Mayor and his henchmen have been running things.

The police force of this city is not only demoralized and inefficient through lack of discipline, but it is streaked throughout with blackmailers, loafers, and deadbeats. The first work of the new Superintendent, honest men on the force say, should be to rigidly discipline these black sheep or peremptorily bounce them. They may be only a small proportion of the outtro force, but they are enough to discredit if not louse the whole.

A little investigation on the part of a Tribune reporter showed so much of the disreputable doings of some members of the force that it is simply astounding that their superior officers are ignorant of them. Men supposed to be traveling beats or detailed from stations as "fly cops" can be found almost anywhere in saloons or in disreputable houses where the latter abound. And scarcely ever do they go singly to thus enjoy and amuse themselves. They generally go in pairs or more.

"O, WE HAVE TO."

"Why do you thus allow them to impose upon you?" was asked of several persons who were grumbling because they had to give so much food, and whisky, and cigars away to men whom they call deadbeats, and the answers were:

"O, we have to. You see they could give us a great deal of trouble, or may be have us shut up altogether, at least after midnight."

One saloonkeeper, however, some time ago took the risk of their displeasure when he found that three or four of them assembled in his place every night and drank and smoked at their leisure, and his expense. He told his barkeeper to shut down on them and he has not since been disturbed, either by them or their superiors. He doubtless has a bigger pull than the "coppers" he disgruntled.

But it is not the saloons alone that these undisciplined policemen sponge upon. The keepers of houses in the disreputable districts of the West and South Sides are still worse victimized.

"They blackmail us," said a keeper of one of them on the South Side, "because they think we are ignorant of the law, and they know we are afraid of them." And then she told how they would come into her house, sometimes three or four at a time in uniform, sit down in her parlor, and ask for drinks and cigars.

RESORT TO BLACKMAILING.

But according to another keeper of one of these places on Fourth avenue some of the police are not always satisfied with the drinks and cigars. They resort to barefaced blackmailing. When she wants to have music in her house after midnight she can do so, as she has found out by experience, only by paying the patrolman on the beat a little money. One night she was told she would get a ride in the wagon if she did not put a stop to the music at once. The next day the officer came to see her, and after she treated him and gave him a \$3 bill he told her she could play when she pleased. He has received other money since then, she says, and she calls it blackmail in the most vigorous language, but adds: "What could I do? They will close me up and lock me up if I say anything."

"No matter what may be thought of these women and houses," said a man who was cognizant of these and other facts, "this system of blackmailing and terrifying these creatures is outrageous, monstrous, and demoralizing."