Fusion Mayor Reformed DOC&C

(Continued from Page 1)

vents proper assistance to those incapable of self-support and
prohibits the best results from being obtained from corrective
discipline.

With such mayoral encouragement, the state legislature
passed the agency division bill. In order for it to become
law, city’s “acceptance” had to be communicated officially to Gov. Levi
Morton, a prerequisite to the latter signing it into law. Since Mayor
Strong had advocated, encouraged and supported the legislation,
his formal approval was a foregone conclusion. Never-
theless, on May 7, 1895, he conducted a hearing, as legally
required, on whether the city’s “acceptance” had been
reported. No objections were raised, and he declared: “I have given this bill
a great deal of consideration and I am entirely in accord with
its provisions. I shall therefore agree to take great pleasure in approv-
ing the bill.”

When on Dec. 21, 1895, in

John William Goff

compliance with the new law’s provi-
sions, the mayor named the new commissioners of the
separate agencies, he re-

Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst

noted that his history of the combined agency
had not been satisfactory but

Crime Prevention Society leader

that he expected the new leader-
ships to bring major improvement.

A few weeks later in his an-

“On the first of this month the

quial messa, January 1896, he noted:

provisions of the statute passed

on the last session of the Legis-

ature went into effect, dividing

the now existing Department of

Charities and Correction into
two separate departments to be

known as the Department of

Public Charities and the De-

partment of Correction. Prov-

ition was made for three Com-

missioners of Public Charities

and for one Commissioner of

Correction. These appoint-

ments have already been

made.

I am quite sure that our citi-

gens generally do not appreci-

ate the magnitude of the present
departments referred to, or

the work imposed upon the for-

ter Department of Charities and

Correction. The management of

the City Prisons, the care of

the insane and paupers, and

the care of the Penitentiary,

together with the hospi-
tals, covers already about

17,000 people, when one

acknowledges a quarter of

that number was in con-
templation.

The condition of our

City Prisons, to speak

without aid of outside

organizations, this


Police Courts, Jails Often Joined

Jefferson Market Prison, at 6th and Greenwich Avenues and
10th St., was built in 1866. It featured a tall tower on northeast
corner with lighted clock dial. The police court, jail and market
shared the same building. The jail served as an annex of Tombs.

The judges at the Jefferson Market Police Court, like those
at the Tombs, Essex Market, Yorkville and Morrisania police
courts/jails were named by the mayor, but, unlike the Criminal
Court judges, they did not have to be attorneys. Terms ran for 10
years at $8,000 per annum.

Most charges involved drunkenness, disorderliness, assaultive
conduct, and petty larceny.

Most of the accused consisted of modest fines and/or short
imprisonments. Those inmates charged with serious crimes were
held for higher courts.

Richard Croker

Tammam Hall Leader

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Many of the illustrations on the Jefferson Market Prison scenes came from
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The Archives provided access to relevant City Record volumes and pic-
torial histories such as Notable New Yorkers of 1896-1899, by Moses King.

New York: The Brown Book: A Biographical Record of Public Officials of the
City of New York for 1899-90, by W. H. Brown, Co., N.Y., 1899, and
the Kings Handbook of New York City. Also by Moses King, excellent sources
for period photos of individuals and institutions. Additionally, the Archives
provided access to such authoritative volumes as the History of the State
of New York, by Columbia University Press, 1934 N.Y., and Four Famous
New Yorkers: The Political Careers of Cleveland, Platt, Hill and Roosevelt,
by Harry Holt & Co., 1923, N.Y.

The Academy made available old training manuals that contained useful
information. Other books used by the editor in gathering historical details
included New York by Gaslight, an 1835 guide by James D. Knuist, pub-
lished by Brownie House, N.Y.; History of Tammam Hall by Gustavus
Mayer, by Dover Publications, 1961, N.Y.; The Good Old Days — They
Were Terribly by Otto L. Betterman, 1976, Random House; The IPA Guide to New
York (of the 1920s), 1959, Pantheon Books, N.Y.; The Encyclopedia of
American Crime, by Facts on File Inc., 1982, N.Y.

Queensborough Library, filmed copies of 1895 New York Times issues
provided relevant accounts concerning Chapter 912.