Norwich Bulletin

1796 1909

VOL. LI.—NO. 88. NORWICH, CONN., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1909. PRICE TWO CENTS.

INTIMIDATION AND BOYCOTT ACT

Members of Organized Labor at Hartford Hearing on House Bill 635.

VIEWS OF PRESIDENT CHAS. J. DONAHUE

Of State Federation of Labor—Language of the Bill Should be Made Clear—Contention that Intimidation is Not Defined in Present Law and that Men May be Sent to Jail Unjustly.

Hartford, Conn., April 13.—The supreme court room at the capitol was filled to overkowing today when members of organized labor from many different parts of the state gathered to voice their approval of house bill 635, which is practically the act at present on the statutes, which provides against intimidation and boycott, with some amendments which are proposed by the labor interests.

Possible to Work Great Injustice.

The principal contention is that intimidation is not defined in the present law and that men may be sent to jail unjustly under the workings of the measure as it exists at present. The claim was made by several speakers that anything could be construed as intimidation and that it would be possible to work great injustice against the working classes unless the measure is changed.. They also desired to have the measure couched in such plain terms that the workingmen may know just what they may and may not do in the matter of persuading people not to go to work for the employers.

President Donahue First Speaker.

The first speaker of the afternoon was Charles J. Donahue, president of the State Federation of Labor. He claimed that the present law is based on the decision of an English judge and that the original decision was not against trade disputes but along other lines and that it was never intended to be applied to trade disputes.

Make the Meaning Clear.

He thought that the language of the measure should be made precise and clear, so that the public may "know where it is at." He stated that the power of the law has only been exerted against the workingmen and always in the interests of the strongest party in a trade dispute. He believed the law oppressive and unfair and that there should be provisions made whereby people engaged in a trade dispute might know what to do. He thought that the withdrawal of business intercourse from a man or a set of men is perfectly lawful. He stated that he did not advocate the secondary boycott, but that he believed that union labor should enjoy the right to the primary boycott. "Labor has no monopoly in boycotting some of the leading organizations in the state and even some of the churches have done acts which smack of the boycott. If, however, the legislature believes that all forms of boycott are wrong, why we will submit to the law as all other good citizens will." He alluded with feeling to the attitude of Governor Lilley on the situation as voiced in his message at the inauguration.

Mr. Donahue wanted the word unlawful inserted in the act prior to the use of the word intimidation and Representative Burnes asked if this would not make the state prove not only the intimidation, but prove it to be unlawful. Mr. Donahue stated that legal counsel will explain that phase of the matter at a later hearing.

Views of Carpenters' Representative.

F. C. Walz of Hartford, representing some five thousand carpenters throughout the state, said that the laymen do not understand the present law and that many of the laws of the state are too intricate. In regard to the boycott, he called attention to a recent amendment to the constitution of the Hartford Medical society to the effect that doctors are not allowed to serve unions or societies at so much per year and cited it as being a case of boycott of the unions and societies. He cited an opinion by Judge Toohey of Chicago to the effect that in industrial warfare the commission of an injury is not a wrong. Mr. Walz said that there is an industrial warfare going on between the workingmen and the employers all the time and that therefore it would not be wrong for the employers to get together and try to reduce wages, but under the present law if employes get together and try to persuade another man not to enter the employ of certain persons it could be called an act of intimidation and he could not see how speaking the truth against a concern could be called a crime.

When It Is "Conspiracy."

"When corporations get together," said the speaker, "it is a 'mutual interchange of ideas,' but when the workers get together it is a 'conspiracy.'" He said that he would not object to the repeal of the law which provides that employers must not discharge men because they belong to a union, as there is no possibility of its enforcement, as the employer has only to say that he does not like a man's work.

Labor Employer Next Speaker.

The next speaker was E. M. Roszelle of Hartford, who said that he was both a member of a labor organization and an employer of labor. He advocated the right of free speech and said that the present law does not allow that right guaranteed by the constitution. He said that men, under the present vague law, have been imprisoned for doing what they believed they had a moral right to do and a legal right as well.

He thought that the temperance people and even voters use the boycott against certain politicians at times. "Boycotts and strikes are great evils, but not as great as is the continued dependence of the working classes upon capital. Governor Lilley in his kindly heart has interested himself in this measure and has recommended the clearing up of the law

Iron Moulders' Side.

Dennis O'Keefe of New Britain, a member of the Iron Moulders' union, went quite deeply into the case of the state vs. McGee under the present law in which McGee is now serving a term in jail. He thought that it was a shame upon the laws of Connecticut and said that the employers are not afraid of the individual, but of the organization. He stated that he had not worked in his trade for six years, as he claims to have been blacklisted.

Never Saw Such Drastic Law.

Sol Sondtheimer was the next speaker. He said that the labor interests do not want a law which would allow the commission of crime but that they do want a law that is fair to all and they want to be placed on an equal footing with the other citizens of the state. He said that he had worked in many states, but that he never saw such a sweeping and drastic law as that in Connecticut on this subject.

"In an interview with the late Senator Hanna," said the speaker, "he said to me, 'If I had to work with my hands for a living, the first thing I would do would be to join my labor union.'" He thought that the manufacturers would have little use for the injunction when they could send the laboring men to jail when they exercise the right of free speech.

Other Speakers.

C. Hall of South Norwalk objected to the law on similar grounds.

F. Grube of New Haven, a cigarmaker, said that the law is being used as a weapon by the economically strong against the economically weak and that if this sort of thing goes on the country need not be surprised at violations of other laws. He thought that the clause of the law which regards compelling people "against their will" was so broad and sweeping that it would allow every man engaged in a trade dispute to be sent to jail.

Will Give Another Hearing.

The committee desired to close the hearing at four o'clock and will give another hearing. Charles E. Gross appeared in favor of the law and will be heard at the next hearing after the lawyer of the organized labor forces has made his presentation of the case before the committee.

WILLIE WHITLA KIDNAPPERS DID NOT TRY TO BREAK JAIL.

Sheriff Cress Says the Story is Untrue and Ridiculous.

Cleveland, O., April 13.—James P. Boyle and his wife, in custody at Mercer, Pa., on the charge of kidnapping Willie Whitla, of Sharon, were again indicted by the Cuyahoga county grand jury here today on the charge of child stealing and harboring a stolen child. After the arrest of the Boyles on March 22 the grand jury indicted them on the charge of blackmail.

Mercer, Pa., April 13.—A sensational story published this afternoon, to the effect that a bold attempt on the part of the Boyles, kidnappers of Willie Whitla, to escape from the Mercer county jail had been frustrated, is characterized by Sheriff Chess as an absolute falsehood. "Untrue and ridiculous," the sheriff informed the Associated Press this afternoon.

CONNECTICUT'S GOVERNOR STRONGER AND BETTER.

Encouraging Bulletins Given Out by Mr. Lilley's Physicians.

Hartford, Conn., April 13.—There was no change in Governor Lilley's condition from the time of the issuing of the morning bulletin up to this evening. After passing a splendid night he awakened stronger and better, his general condition being much better than any time since last Thursday night.

The physicians gave out the following bulletin tonight:

"There has been no change in the governor's condition this evening. He has rested well through the day and his strength holds good. There is every prospect of another refreshing night."

Died as Result of Running Marathon Race.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 13.—William H. Howick, 17 years old, died tonight as the result of running a Marathon race three weeks ago. Howick won the race, but has never been well since.

Five Men Killed in Cave-In.

Troy, N. Y., April 13.—Five Hungarians were killed today in a cave-in at a state quarry at Granville, and five other workmen had narrow escapes. The bodies are covered with slate from fire to forty-five feet deep. The frost is believed to have caused the slide.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY JEROME AS A CLOSER OF SALOONS.

Could Put Them All Out of Business in Three Months.

Albany, N. Y., April 13.—Declaring that the law prohibiting saloons from opening on Sunday cannot be enforced in New York city by local officials, because of the influence to which these men are subjected, District Attorney William T. Jerome, New York, appeared today in favor of a bill to permit saloons to open on Sunday in first-class cities from 1 to 11 p. m.

Mr. Jerome characterized as "a dream" that former Persident Roosevelt when police commissioner had closed the saloons on Sunday in New York. "If prohibition were practicable," said he, "I would be for it. If Commissioner Bingham were removed and I was given twenty men from the state excise department I would close the saloons in New York within three months as tight as a drum."

TRIAL OF CAPTAIN HAINS, INSANITY TO BE THE DEFENSE.

Both Mrs. Hains and Her Mother Will Testify if Necessary.

New York, April 13.—Conferences held today in the offices of John F. McIntyre, counsel for Capt. Peter C. Hains, Jr., in which the latter's parents, General Hains and Mrs. Hains, their son, Maj. John R. Hains, and several witnesses participated, resulted in a decision to rely solely on insanity as a defense in the trial of Captain Hains for the murder of William E. Annis. The trial will begin Monday in Flushing, L. I.

District Attorney Dewitt said tonight:

"If needed by the prosecution both Mrs. Hains and her mother, Mrs. Libby, will appear at the trial of Captain Hains and testify."

Caruso Has Rheumatism of the Throat

New York, April 13.—Enrico Caruso, the famous tenor, who will sail for Europe tomorrow, is to undergo a course of treatment for his throat, according to an announcement made here tonight. Caruso had to forego a trip to Chicago with the singers of the Metropolitan Opera company, and Signor Zenatello, the tenor at Hammerstein's Manhattan Opera house, took his place. His ailment is said to be a rheumatism of the throat.

Cabled Paragraphs.

St. Petersburg, April 13.—Tang Shao Yi, the Chinese commissioner, who is making a tour of the world in the course of which he visited the United States last year, arrived here today on his way back to Peking. He will remain in St. Petersburg several days.

Troon, Scotland, April 13.—Tom Fernie, a local professional, today defeated Jerome D. Travers, the amateur golf champion of the United States, by five holes in an exhibition match. Mr. Travers, who has come abroad to take part in several foreign tournaments, has not yet got into form after the sea voyage.

London, April 13.—Serious fears are beginning to be felt here for the safety of a French aeronaut named Bellamy who went up in a balloon from the Crystal palace yesterday. His balloon was last seen twenty-four hours ago, passing over the Isle of Sheppey, at the mouth of the Thames. The airship was then flying low, but Bellamy threw out some of his ballast and disappeared in the clouds over the North sea.

SUM OF $16,000 WANTED FOR MYSTIC ORAL SCHOOL

New Buildings and Equipment Wanted for Institution.

(Special to The Bulletin.)

Hartford, April 13.—Mrs. Clara M. H. McGuigan, acting superintendent of the Mystic Oral school, presented the claims of that institution to the joint committee on appropriations this afternoon in connection with the measure by which the legislature is asked to appropriate $16,000 for new buildings and equipment for this institution. She told in some detail of the work of the school and showed how it could be very beneficially extended if there were buildings better fitted to its purposes in which to carry it on.

The school authorities had consulted the Norwich firm of Cudworth & Woodworth, architects, and had plans for the new buildings at hand to show the committee. Mr. Woodworth of the firm exhibited these and explained them. He said that while $16,000 was asked for and a more satisfactory piece of work could be done with this sum than anything less, Mrs. McGuigan's suggestion that the school could get along with a thousand less was based on fact, and the buildings shown on the plans could be built for that money by economizing a bit.

ANNA M. HERR Y'S.

Miss Cassie Ringland Made Treasurer Vice Miss Ella Burgess Resigned.

The Anna M. Herr Y's made their session on Tuesday evening in the W. C. T. U. headquarters in the Bill block a very successful social evening, which was arranged for by Miss Clara Joseph and Miss Sybil Christman. A short business meeting was held first, at which Miss Martha Ringland presided. The resignation of Miss Ella Burgess as treasurer was presented and Miss Cassie Ringland was elected to succeed her.

The programme comprised the following: Recitation, An Old Sweetheart of Mine, Miss Marion L. Young; solo, In the Shadow of the Pines, Miss Hadee Blackstone; recitation, The Story of the Golden-haired Girl, Miss Charlotte Christman.

There was also an interesting musical guessing game, and a guessing match on a bowl of Easter eggs, at which Miss Ella Burgess was the winner. Cute souvenirs made of walnut shells were distributed to all from a rabbit pie.

Brief remarks by one of the honorary members, Herman Alofsin, Jr., were heard with pleasure. Ice cream and cake were served.

FUNERALS.

John R. Cobleigh.

At one o'clock Tuesday afternoon the funeral of John R. Cobleigh was held from the Buckingham Memorial, at which there was a large attendance of relatives and friends and delegations from organizations of which he was a member. The services were conducted by Rev. P. C. Wright, pastor of the Central Baptist church, and the quartette of the church, Miss Harriet C. Frisbie, Mrs. A. T. Sullivan, George A. Turner and James L. Case, sang Some Time We Will Understand, and It is Not Death to Die. There were beautiful floral forms including one representing an open book with the letters, Father's Last Page. The bearers were Vine S. Stetson, James Harvey, Edwin Spalding, A. A. Walker, J. Herbert George and Henry Hovey. The remains were taken to Worcester on the 2.05 train by Church & Allen. Burial was in Hope cemetery, where Rev. P. C. Wright read the committal service.

Mrs. Amedio Elvo.

The funeral of Mrs. Amedio Elvo was held from the rooms of Shea & Burke Monday afternoon, services being conducted by Rev. Hugh Treanor. Burial was in St. Mary's cemetery.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Joseph T. Mitchell.

The death of Mrs. Joseph T. Mitchell occurred at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon at her home, 166 Franklin street, death being the result of a general breakdown of health.

Mrs. Mitchell was born in Willimantic, and when a child of only a few years her father died. She resided in the family of William F. Bailey for a number of years and in 1864 she was joined in marriage in Bozrah to Joseph T. Mitchell, Rev. William Hunt performing the ceremony. Her maiden name was Jane Elizabeth Pollock. Six years after her marriage she came to Norwich to reside and had lived here since. She took her greatest interest in her home and looked well after its interests. She is survived by her husband and three daughters, Mrs. Arthur E. Chandler, Mrs. Porter Rogers of this city and Mrs. J. Herman Webster of Noank. There are two grandchildren, May Chandler and Tyler Rogers.

Choir Boys Dance.

Miller's dancing academy was filled almost to its capacity point Tuesday evening for the dance given by the Christ church choir boys, and as a result their camp fund will be swelled, this being the object of giving the dance. The evening was thoroughly enjoyable. Ice cream and cake were served at the intermission.

Still Alarm on Laurel Hill.

At 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon Engine company No. 1 was called to the dump back of Laurel Hill park, where there was a quantity of rubbish afire. It was necessary to lay a line of hose to keep the fence from burning.

Settled the Claim.

On Tuesday Lafayette F. Main of North Stonington came here and paid Attorney Shields the sum of $293.43, the amount of the verdict and costs against him in the suit brought by Brown & Perkins.

Bacon Arms Building.

The work of repairing the Bacon Arms building is under way, the cave-in on the south side having been repaired and alterations are now being made on the north side.

Connecticut General Assembly

APPROPRIATIONS TO SUPPLY INSANE HOSPITAL DEFICIENCIES.

DOG LAW AMENDMENTS

Open Season for Shad from April 30 to June 11—Slow Driving on Bridges—Petitions.

Hartford, April 13.—The senate was called to order at 11.15 by President Pro Tem. Brooks. Prayer by Chaplain Sexton.

Bills Recommitted.

On the motion of Senator Fenn the senate receded and concurred with the house in recommitting senate bill No. 49, concerning the close season for Hungarian partridge and other game.

Tuberculosis Bill.

On the motion of Senator Blakeslee the bill referring to the creating of a tuberculosis commission was referred to the committee on humane institutions.

Reports of Committees.

Incorporations—Favorable on senate joint resolution granting additional powers to the Standard Electric Time company. Calendar.

Humane Institutions—Favorable on bill concerning parole and temporary absence from institutions for the insane. Calendar.

Military Affairs—Unfavorable on bill providing a pension for soldiers of the Civil and Spanish wars. Bill rejected.

Calendar.

Making an appropriation of $14,000 to the Connecticut hospital for the insane, and $11,700 to the Norwich hospital for the insane, both to supply deficiencies; $3,300 to supply deficiency in the appropriation for board of children in Litchfield county home; $3,234.43 to supply deficiency in appropriation for Meriden armory; $4,000 for the Connecticut Humane society; that every fire district shall have the right to use for municipal purposes, without payment therefor, the top gain of every telephone and telegraph pole within its limits; appropriating $24,030 for military purposes; making appropriations for sundry civil purposes as amended by striking out an appropriation of $10,000 for grade crossings and reducing the appropriation for health officer in New London from $2,000 to $1,500; to prevent the occupency of aisles, sides or backs of theaters or halls, except town halls on ground floors, as to prevent unobstructed passage.

Driving on Bridges.

The following bill was explained by Senator Alsop and passed:

Section 1. Section 1,247 of the general statutes is hereby amended to read as follows: Every person who shall ride, drive or lead any team of horses, or other animals, or any single horse, or other animal, or permit any such team, horse or other animal to go upon any bridge at a faster gait than a walk, and every person who shall run, drive or direct any automobile or motorcycle on or over any bridge at a rate of speed greater than six miles an hour, if the county, town, city, borough or district required to repair such bridge shall keep conspicuously posted at each end thereof or at each approach thereto, in full view, a painted notification that the riding or driving of any horses, teams or carriages faster than a walk, or the operating of any automobile or motorcycle faster than six miles an hour on such bridge is by law prohibited, shall be fined not more than fifty dollars, or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

Adjourned to Wednesday.

THE HOUSE.

The house was called to order at 11.30 by Speaker Banks. The chaplain, the Rev. Franklin Countryman, referred in his prayer to Governor Lilley and offered thanks for the apparent improvement in the governor's condition.

Dog Law Amended.

The amendments to the proposed dog law (house bill No. 388), referred to by Mr. Savage of Mansfield, Thursday, during which the house adjourned, were taken up the first thing this morning. Mr. Savage explained them. One change reduces the price of tags to town clerks from 7 cents to 5 cents, for which the dog owners pay 10 cents. Mr. Savage said that the changes are of a minor character, but that the bill as a whole is an amendment to the existing law. The bill as amended was passed.

Reports of Committees.

Banks—Unfavorable incorporating the Mechanics Savings bank of Waterbury; unfavorable on incorporating a trust company in Willimantic. Reports accepted, resolutions rejected.

Agriculture—Unfavorable concerning defunct agricultural societies; unfavorable concerning eligibility of members of state board of agriculture and of the directors of the Connecticut agricultural college; unfavorable concerning sale of farm and dairy products from state institutions; unfavorable amending an act concerning sheep. Reports accepted, bills rejected.

Insurance—Favorable on house bill No. 3, concerning including damage by hail in fire insurance policies. Calendar.

Shad Fishing Season.

The committee on fish and game reported favorably on a proposed substitute bill which would amend the present law concerning the close season for shad. This would make the open season from April 30 to June 11 and provides that it shall take effect from its passage. Calendar.

Abolishing School Fund Commissioner.

The substitute for senate bill No. 123 which practically abolishes the office of school fund commissioner, was passed by the house without debate. Mr. Wallace of Wallingford, house chairman of the committee on school fund, explaining it.

On the Calendar.

Making an appropriation for the Memorial hospital of New London for two years.

Making an appropriation to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for board of children in county homes; also appropriation for the same purpose for two years from Sept. 30.

Making appropriations for certain state boards and commissions for two years.

Referred to Committee on Appropriations—Amending an act concerning the salary of certain military officers; favorably reported by committee on military affairs.

Adjourned.

Severe Storm Approaching Atlantic Seaboard.

Washington, April 13.—A severe storm is approaching the Atlantic seaboard from the west, and the weather bureau today issued storm warnings to all ports between North Carolina and Maine, announcing high winds along the coast.

Mutinous Troops At Parliament

DEMAND DISMISSAL OF GRAND VIZIER AND WAR MINISTER.

REVOLT IH CONSTANTINOPLE

Outbreak Caused by an Order Issued to the Troops to Obey Officers Under All Circumstances.

Constantinople, April 13.—The troops of the garrison made a violent demonstration today before the parliament building against the committee of union and progress and the government. They demanded the dismissal of the Grand Vizier Hilmi Pasha, the minister of war and the president of the chamber. The outbreak was caused by an order issued to the troops to the effect that they must obey their officers under all circumstances, even if called upon to shoot down their co-religionists. The situation is grave.

Mutineers Seize Committee of Union Officers.

The mutineers as the first move seized all the officers of the committee of union and held them prisoners.

Only a few of the troops refrained from taking part in the demonstration. The latter, which were chiefly artillerymen and cavalry, are massed at the war ministry. They have orders to fire on anyone approaching the building, and during the course of the day a number of persons were killed or wounded. Deputies were escorted to the chamber in order that they might vote on the question of forming a new cabinet and appointing a new president, but owing to the Easter holidays is was impossible to form a quorum.

Seventeen Persons Reported Killed.

Deputy Emir Arsland was killed on his way to the house in mistake for Husseln Jahid. Reports of the killed place the number as high as 17 and the wounded at 30 or more. There is a report current also that the minister of justice Refik Pasha, has been murdered, that the minister of marine has been wounded, and the minister of war taken prisoners by the mutineers. This, however, has not been confirmed.

Ministers Send in Resignations.

The cabinet met at the porte early in the morning and after a long consultation the ministers sent in their resignation to the palace. A new ministry is being formed this evening. The latest rumor is that Tewfik Pasha, who was recently appointed ambassador to Great Britain, will be the new grand vizier, with Edhim Pasha minister of war.

NEW LONDON-GROTON FERRY, MAYOR ARMSTRONG HEARD.

Joint Committee on Roads, Rivers and Bridges Go Over Matter Again.

Hartford, April 13.—The joint committee on roads, bridges and rivers went over all the matters relating to the New London-Groton ferry once more this afternoon, particularly because Mayor Armstrong desired to be heard, but generally by way of reopening the whole subject. Mayor Armstrong was the first speaker and told the committee in some detail of the conditions concerning the New London-Groton railroad bridge, which he said President Mellen had assured him would be abandoned ere long because of the construction of a new bridge a little way up the river and could be acquired either by the state or the towns concerned.

He told the committee of the amount of travel there and the great value of a highway bridge. President Mellen has agreed to recommend to his directors that the bridge should be given free to either the state or the two towns when the railroad is through with it. It cost a million dollars and could not be duplicated now at less than a million and a half.

At $35,000, at the outside, the bridge could be put in shape for use as a highway bridge safely for a hundred years to come.

Mayor Armstrong asked earnestly that if the committee did not wish to recommend that the state take over the bridge, it allow the towns of New London and Groton to do so and maintain it as a toll bridge.

The mayor then went into the ferry matter, speaking to Senator Fenn's bill to free all ferries in the state. He detailed the conditions surrounding the present ferry and how disagreeable and uncomfortable, not to say dangerous, was the situation at both ends of the route. Three hundred and fifty thousand transfers from ferry to trolley and vice versa were used last year, showing how many persons suffer. He denied that there would be any heavy expense connected with the acquisition of the ferry by the state and showed by figures that this was so, stating that New London would be very willing to take nominal sum from the state for lease of its franchise.

Mayor Armstrong broadly accused the Chappells of juggling figures when they come to the committee and show that with $36,000 income they make but $3,000 profit. They buy their coal of their own firm and as to many others expenses are simply turning money from one pocket into another. He knew about such matters from the time when his father was one of the owners. The mayor stated emphatically that he would be glad to operate this ferry line with the same boat at $18,000 a year. At some length he referred to the legislative history of this matter through the years and showed how easy it was for the ferry company, with $18,000 to $20,000 a year to spend, to employ experienced counsel and thwart the people's will.

Asked by House Chairman Leete whether the city of New London had taken action to show that it was willing to forego its ferry income of $4,300 a year for the privilege of a free ferry, Mayor Armstrong said "No, but I am satisfied they would."

"Well, do you think that all the people of New London are as patriotic as you are?"

"Realizing the tenor of your question, I will say," said the mayor, "that the ferry company, which is able to make the people of Groton Bank pay $36,000 a year for the privilege of crossing that ferry, is well able to spend that money and I can assure you that none of their family or their numerous friends and allies would vote for such a move."

P. S. Schellens of Groton presented a petition from Groton people which detailed the conditions from which they suffer and begged for the reduction of the ferry rates, which they characterized as unnecessarily high.

Dr. P. W. Hewes of Groton complained of having to pay 2 cents a package for goods carried by the ferry company, but that the company refused to take any responsibility. He thought the Chappells honest and doubted if they would misrepresent their profits.

"I don't know whether they would, but they certainly have," Mayor Armstrong sprang up to say.

C. M. Shea of the Shea Fertilizer company told the committee that politics had kept the people out of their rights and it seemed to him that this should end. The ferry rates were inordinately high and the accommodations poor.

Walter Denison of Groton, real estate man, did not believe the company would be hurt in the long run by a reduction in rates and told of his experience with the reduction from 4 cents to 2 when he was treasurer of the company which preceded the present company. The total expense in this company's last year was just over $11,000, and the present company is not under much heavier expense.

John Salter of Groton, coal dealer, believed the petition of the Groton people was just. The traffic now is three times what it was when the present rates were established and he believed the ferry company would more than make up for the reduced rates by the increase of travel if the fares were cut to the one-third asked for.

First Selectman Percy H. Morgan of Groton thought it all wrong for the people of Groton to pay a royalty to the city of New London for the privilege of trading there. He took the stand that the ferry was a part of the highway and that no revenue should be derived from operating it. It should be run at cost and passage across be free.

Mr. Leete asked if the ferriage could not be reduced if the company didn't have to pay New London $4,300 a year.

"Why, their expenses would be that much less, of course."

He told John C. Geary, who appeared with Mayor Armstrong, that the traffic had increased very largely in the last few years, with little increase in expense to the company.

Representative Crane of Groton said everyone in Groton favored the reduction of rates.

Senator Latimer told the committee that it was common opinion throughout Groton that the rates were too high and that the citizens suffered injustice from New London. The service today is better than previously but this is due to the efforts of Groton people.

"We've had to fight for everything we've got," he said. "Don't look at the personal sides of the matter. Go into it carefully and give us a thorough investigation and a square deal."

At this point Mayor Armstrong read a communication from the Thames Ferry company to the chairman of this committee in the 1905 legislature and stated that by no means all of the improvements promised had been carried out.

Frank Moses of Groton followed with the statement that the ferry boat runs in conjunction with the trolley company, but the latter doesn't reciprocate and the ferry boat is almost always late because of waiting for the trolley. He gave experiences to show this. If the trolley company was making money six years ago, it is making more now and could stand a reduction in rates. Mr. Moses believed that if the matter were properly put to the New London merchants in the right light, they'd favor it.

Representative Smith of Groton favored the reduction of fares.

Henry Marquardt of Groton, grocer, considers that Groton is paying New London a double profit because of the ferriage. He thought fifteen or eighteen years of waiting entitled Groton to a reduction.

C. T. Lamphere of Groton went into the history of the ferry to show that the state of Connecticut really owns the ferry and can legislate concerning it just as the legislature pleases. There are plenty of people who will take over the ferry and operate it at one-third of what is now charged.

William Thomas of Groton, farmer, was anxious to have matters arranged so that loose hay could be carried across. There is a great chance for improvement in the drops on the boat.

At the close of the hearing Mayor Armstrong asked a further hearing at which further evidence, as well as argument, may be submitted, and next Tuesday was decided upon.

Condensed Telegrams

Fears Are Entertained for the sealing steamer Decapo, of the Newfoundland fleet. The total catch is estimated at 250,000 skins.

President Gomez of Cuba planned the construction of several magnificent new buildings for the various government departments.

William Faversham and Walter Damrosch have agreed jointly to place "Orestes" with Massenet's music on the American stage next season.

The Cunard Line's Report shows that the company will be unable to pay a dividend and must draw on the reserve fund to meet the year's expenses.

Thirty Persons Were Injured ten seriously, in a head-on collision on the Chicago, Lake Shore and South Bend Interurban electric line, near Gary, Ind.

The Versailles Touched at Point a Pitre, Guadaloupe; ex-President Castro did not attempt to leave the vessel, and is now on his way to St. Nozaire.

Prof. Anton Hess, the sculptor, died at Munich, Monday. He was born in 1838, and held the professorship of plastic art at the technical university of Munich.

George W. Johnson, who was a member of the council of Governor Oliver Ames, died of paralysis at his home in Brookfield, Mass., Monday night, at the age of 82.

E. B. Lare, a Trenton insurance man, regained his senses after four days in a Newark hospital and told his name. Result: His arrest on a charge of embezzling funds of his company.

According to the Official Report of the department of foreign affairs of Japan, as announced at the consulate general in New York city, Monday, 307 more Japanese returned to their native country from the United States and Hawaii during March than entered the States and Hawaii.

The Public Service Commision Monday issued an order at New York calling for a hearing on the 20th to determine why the Interborough Rapid Transit company shall not run the last car on each of the express trains in the subway during rush hours as a special car for women and children.

Judge Holt in the United States district court of New York Monday gave the receivers of the steel and iron firm of J. B. and J. M. Connell permission to issue $100,000 of receivers' certificates, so that the concern may be quickly rehabilitated and placed in a position to execute many contracts on hand.

Coal Mines Resume Operations.

Reading, Pa., April 13.—The collieries of the Reading Coal and Iron company resumed operations today after an idleness of three days. In some sections of the Schuylkill regions doubt was expressed as to whether all would start, but they did, and the usual amount of coal will be mined today. By this evening much of the coal produced today will be on its way to tidewater.

$500,000 BLAZE AT ROCHESTER

Buffalo and Syracuse Rushed Companies to Aid the Local Department

HUNDREDS OF PERSONS HOMELESS

Camped Out Last Night with what Little Property They Could Save—Campers Guarded by the Militia—Fifty Residences Beside Other Property Destroyed—Delay in Sending in Alarm—Flames Fanned by Gale.

Rochester, N. Y., April 12.—Fire, which broke out at 11 o'clock this morning in the Palmer building, a four story brick structure devoted to manufacturing interests at Main and Gibbs streets, was the starting point of a $500,000 conflagration in Rochester today.

Wide Area Devastated.

The fire spread over a wide area, at one point jumping nearly a mile and starting a second series of fires of such proportions that the local fire department was for a time unable to cope with the situation.

Buffalo and Syracuse Sent Aid.

Aid was summoned from Buffalo and Syracuse and both of these cities rushed companies to Rochester. By the time they arrived, however, the local firemen were masters in both fire areas. The outside companies were held on reserve duty in the center of the city, every Rochester company having been called out by the long series of alarms.

Homeless Persons Camping Out.

Hundreds of Rochester people are homeless tonight and are camping out near the scenes of the fires with whatever property they were able to save from their homes. Over them the local companies of militia stand guard, having been ordered out in the afternoon by Mayor Edgerton.

Although accurate estimates cannot be made at this time, the loss, it is believed, will exceed $500,000.

Fifty Residences Burned.

The buildings which were destroyed include the Palmer building and the Temple B'Rith Kodisch, the First Reformed Church of America, the Ward apartments on Grove street, the First German Lutheran Zion church, and 50 residences.

Firemen Injured—Alarm Delayed.

Several firemen were injured by falling walls or overcome by smoke, but none was seriously hurt. The origin of the fire has not been determined, but it was seen first from outside the Palmer building, sweeping across the third story, half of which was vacant. There was delay in sounding the alarm and when it came the firemen were busy at a small blaze on State street. Ten minutes or more elapsed, it is stated, before the firemen arrived, and at that time the flames had spread from cellar to garret of the Palmer building. A 25-mile gale sent the sparks in a northwesterly direction over the city.

Flames Jumped Street.

By the time the fire hose had been laid the flames had jumped across the street and upon the roof of St. Peter's Presbyterian church. At the same time fire appeared in the belfry of Der B'Rith Kodesch temple, occupying the opposite corner. The blaze at St. Peter's was quenched.

Beyond Control.

The water tower and most of the hose was kept playing on the Palmer building and the fire ate down through Kodesch temple uninterrupted for some time. When the firemen turned their attention there the flames were beyond control.

It was a question of minutes only before the walls of the Palmer building began to fall.

Directly back of the Palmer building, and in the path of the flames was Grove place. The heat was so intense that the firemen were driven back from their position in this street, and the Ward apartments, valued at $100,000, took fire and burned rapidly. From this point the flames swept across the street, but the firemen made a stand and saved the houses.

Scenes of Panic.

The tenants here had removed much of their property earlier in the course of the blaze and had carried it into the B'Rith Kodesch Temple, where later it was destroyed. Sweeping down street from the temple, the flames attacked the First German Lutheran Zion church, and it was a question for two hours whether this building could be saved. While the firemen were busy there the fire rushed on to Stillson street and from Grove street northward, damaging every house for two blocks on Stillson street. There were many scenes of panic among the residents. Among a great portion of those who lived nearby there was but one thought—the city was doomed. Women threw from windows of houses which were not in danger beds, bureaus, tables, and all sorts of furniture and personal belongings. One woman, Mary Kirschnamsky of 119 Kelly street, went violently insane and was removed to the Rochester state hospital. Draymen reaped a harvest removing goods to places of safety. It was the last day of the feast of the Passover, and many of the Jewish residents of this part of the city interpreted the situation as the outward, visible sign of the second coming of the Messiah. Men, women and children tore their hair and knelt in the street to pray.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Formed.

Fires broke out so frequently in various spots in the northeastern part of the city that companies could not be despatched to all of them. Volunteer brigades were formed and answered many of the calls, armed with garden hose or chemical apparatus. While the Palmer fire was at its height the sparks carried a mile, and lighted on the First Reformed church of America, at Oregon and Harrison streets, a mile distant. Little attention was paid to the new fire at first, only one company being sent to the scene.

Flames on Three Different Streets.

But soon the entire district was a scene of confusion, and calls for additional aid were hurried in. Three different streets in the neighborhood were dotted with flames, and Chief Little, after a conference with the fire underwriters, decided to appeal to Buffalo and Syracuse for aid.

Fearful of Fresh Outbreak.

Tonight Rochester was terror stricken. Today's fires are a culmination of an uninterrupted series of fires lasting for weeks, many of which have been charged to incendiarism. Although both of today's fires were under control by 3 o'clock this afternoon, the flames were still smouldering throughout the evening in dozens of places. The wind continued to increase in velocity, and both firemen and police were compelled to do all night duty, assisted by the three companies of local militia. All were fearful that a fresh outbreak of the flames might come at any time.

$50,000 FOREST FIRE.

5,000 Acres Woodland at Belchertown Burned Over.

Amherst, Mass., April 12.—A forest fire believed to have been started by sparks from a locomotive, burned over about five thousand acres of woodland today and destroyed about two hundred thousand feet of cut lumber in the yard of Peso & Bond, and a seed house owned by Lafayette Goodell. The Peso & Bond lumber mill was saved with difficulty and several houses in the vicinity of the Dwight station on the Central Vermont railroad were endangered for a time. Tonight the fire was believed to be practically under control, though still burning brightly. The lot burned over is in the northern part of Belchertown near the Pelham line. A large force of men from Amherst, Belchertown and Pelham fought the flames. The loss exceeds $50,000.

Billiard Champion of Pennsylvania Dead.

New York, April 13.—Edward McLaughlin, one of the best known billiard match referees in this country and billiard champion of Pennsylvania, died today at his home here from pneumonia. He was 56 years of age. He will be buried in Philadelphia next Thursday. Mr. McLaughlin had held the championship of Pennsylvania since he was 35 years of age. His straight rail record was 1,349.

Phipp-Langhorne Marriage License Issued.

New York, April 13.—Miss Norah Langhorne, youngest daughter of Chiswell D. Langhorne of Mirador Virginia, appeared at the City hall here today with her fiance, Paul Phipps, a London architect, and a marriage license was issued to the couple for their marriage in this city April 26. Mr. Phipps arrived here on Saturday last from England.

Scout Cruiser Birmingham Badly Disabled.

Washington, April 13.—Five days' repairs will be required to the machinery of the scout cruiser Birmingham which got out of repair during her 24-hour competitive run with her sister ships, the Salem and Chester, according to information received at the navy department.

Steamship Arrivals.

At Antwerp: April 13, Vaderland, from New York via Dover.

At Trieste: April 8, Martha Washington, from New York via Naples.

At Marseilles: April 10, Venzia, from New York.

At Bremen: April 13, Kaiser Wilhelm II., from New York via Plymouth and Cherbourg.

$1,000 Fire Loss at Winsted.

Winsted, Conn., April 13.—A dwelling house occupied by Eugene Diefiin on Coe street was set on fire by sparks from a defective chimney tonight and destroyed. The loss will be $1,000.

LIQUOR LICENSES IN THIS STATE

Arguments on Limiting the Number According to Population.

Hartford, Conn., April 13.—That the national efficiency is impaired to the extent that alcoholics are used, that anything that will tend to decrease the use of such drinks is a step forward, that the intent of the present law in this state is to limit the number of saloons in a community and that a system of license associated with local option would bring about a state of things desired by the people of the state were arguments advanced before the committee on excise at the capitol this afternoon when the bills which provide for limiting the number of liquor licenses according to population were taken up for discussion. One of these bills provides that there shall be one license for every five hundred population and another that the license shall be one for every 1,000 persons in a community or the major fraction thereof, and the third and the one on which chief attention was centered provides that the licenses shall be limited to one for every 1,000 persons. In opposition to the proposed laws it was argued that the present laws were stringent enough, that if a better state of things is desired the present laws should be left as they are, as under them the undesirables can be weeded out of the liquor business, that there were more crimes committed against the person and state in prohibition than in non-prohibition states, that there was more harm done to the body politic today by the use of cocaine and kindred drugs than by the use of malt liquors and that if such a law were put upon the statute books it would open the way to one of the worst forms of "graft."

Objects to Having His Water Supply Cut Off.

Newport, Conn., April 13.—F. S. Marden of New York, who recently purchased a summer home here from Dr. L. D. Bulkeley, also of New York, has entered suit against Dr. Bulkeley to prevent his cutting off the water supply. Dr. Bulke