

NEW LONDON POLICE AND SIDEWALKS

(Special to The Bulletin.)

New London, Aug. 5.—The chairman of the police committee of the city council of New London has issued a statement to the press which indicates that the police department is not to his liking and that he intends changing some of the police methods. He declares that if the fault is with the management of the department, indirectly referring to the captain, that there is liable to be a change in the management. It is indicated that the higher up in the department are just as able to be called upon the carpet as is the newest supernumerary. All of which sounds well but it has a tinge of escaping hot air.

The captain of the police force is captain in name and salary only. Everybody that knows anything of the management of the department knows that this is not the case. He is simply the mouthpiece of the chairman of the committee and is simply supposed to receive and deliver orders, but to do nothing of his own. The chairman of the department, without committee orders, and therefore ought not to be held accountable if these orders do not result as the committee intended. Although the orders are received, delivered and executed in good faith. It would be a pretty how-do-it if the real management of the police force took a notion to do a little investigation. There are many who think it is not right in the police department.

There have been many abstracted crimes even since the police force has been more than double, but that is no serious reflection on the force. Such things do happen in the largest cities in the country that are supplied with the very best of experienced officers and men. In New London this condition might be improved by a better management of the police force proper left with the captain, who is closer to the men and police matters than is any official committee man. If this was the condition in other cities, it would be a matter of understanding between the captain and the men that would materially add to the general efficiency of police service. The captain is not free to command, free to do his full duty to the people, for fear of incurring the enmity of the committee. It is for the common council gentlemen to order and the captain and his men obey. Military discipline is all right in the police, but it is a mistake to undertake to have military discipline applied to a police department like that in New London, and to the sacrifice of the best of police work that is best for the city. The men higher up in the department ought not to be continually looking for trouble, or be bent on persecuting some cop, that some time or other traded on the use of committee man or some personal friend thereof. These things have been done in other cities outside of New London, but surely not here.

That three-plateau system as worked out in New London is a detriment rather than a benefit to the city, and is an unnecessary imposition on the members of the force. Under the plateau rule the officers are expected to be impossible in patrol service. It is known that they cannot cover the beats to which they are assigned and at the same time report in to headquarters at the required intervals. Under the three-plateau system the changes are so frequent that the routine of living is entirely changed and it is difficult for the officers to know just where they are at. They must be on their feet at least monthly changes in the hours of sleep and meals, and there is so much needless irregularity in their plan of living that it is becoming a question whether the life of a New London policeman is hardly worth while.

Then there is that marked discrimination in the general treatment of the men on the force that does not tend to harmonize and thereby increase the general efficiency of the force, that ought to be as one family united, and not be divided into small factions against itself. All of which is due to the lack of direct authority of the captain. In the old days the chairman of the police committee not only directly governed the police but he made daily early morning visits to the lockup and decided which of the prisoners would be released and which would be held for trial. That was going it rather strong, but it went for many years.

When Bruce E. Mahan was mayor of the city of New London he found the ways and the means of building sidewalks, after many preceding mayors had failed in the attempt. While mayor more than 20 miles of sidewalks were built almost under his personal supervision. Since then, for varied reasons, in the general public unknown, there has been laxity in sidewalk construction, although there has been something doing in that line at intervals. Under an ordinary supervision, sidewalks are laid by the city, one-half of the expense being borne by the city proper and the other half by the property owners benefited. The bill for the same being included in the tax bill to be collected and treated as a part of that tax bill. By this method money is saved the city and property owner, as long stretches are contracted for at the same time.

A gentleman from Linden street put a pretty Pearl plan over on the mayor and the court of common council at the recent meeting of that body. He told the council that the sidewalks on Linden street were in a bad state of repair and that if the property owners in that street could not receive deserved recognition in the sidewalk bill. He was informed by the mayor that the council appreciated that sidewalks were needed in Linden street, and in other sections of the city, but none were being laid, as it was impossible to get the required cement used in their construction. The Alderman began to remark that nowadays anything could be had, even heck, if the price was forthcoming.

Here is where the gentleman from Linden street got in his line work. He told the mayor and the council that he would not only get the cement but would have the sidewalks laid to the full satisfaction of the committee of the council. The city to deduct from the tax bills of the property owners on that street one-half the actual cost of the improvement. This little proposition took, and the council accepted the offer. So Linden street is to have sidewalks, while other sections of the city must wait the slow action of the council. It will be noted that the terms are really in accordance with the city ordinance and that Linden street will receive attention somewhat out of turn.

As a matter of fact, the sidewalks in Linden street will be paid for just as any other sidewalks have been. Half the cost will be assessed against the property owners and will be collected with the regular tax next due. It cannot be done any other way under the ordinance. There will be no deductions in the tax bill. The face of the bill will be paid and the city will settle the bill. The only difference being that both property owners in that street and the city proper will pay their share for the sidewalk. The work would be done just as well, and somewhat cheaper, were it not for the recent contract of the city for the construction of sidewalks. As a matter of fact, besides, there will be no deductions in tax bills, as suggested by the gentleman from Linden street.

city treasury does not change the business proposition. The taxpayers are entitled to know the details of business done through the water department, whether served to the city proper or to the individual consumer. This innovation met considerable opposition and the whole matter was deferred for action until the beginning of the next fiscal year.

It is equally as important that the expenses of the department be made complete, so that the actual profit or loss can be ascertained. The water department ought to pay to the city all that any independent water company would be expected to pay, and would appear in the ordinary regular expense account of any well conducted sewer, municipal or otherwise. The department should pay rent for office or any property utilized by the board that is city property and there by register an account and fair account of the business in all its detail. That is the only method to ascertain whether there is profit or loss in the water department and get the amount. This method would in no way add to the burden of the taxpayers, as all the receipts above actual maintenance and extension eventually drift back into the city treasury. The board of water commissioners seems anxious to let the people know just the business the department is doing, and the cost of common council ought not to be the stumbling block.

The main trouble with plans municipally owned is their tendency to keep from the public just what the public is entitled to know. That is the actual cost of the water department and interest, and the amount produced. This the board of water commissioners want to do and is ready to show the actual cost of operating the water department into a well conducted institution. The board wants to show the profit or loss, as the case may be, and the plan proposed is the only way the actual conditions can be ascertained. As a matter of bookkeeping, open to inspection, it is essential that the receipts for production should appear in full. Then the people would know whether they were getting more for water than their bills show in the matter of taxation or appropriation for the water department. It is evident that the commissioners are desirous of letting the public know just where they are at. If the water department is a paying investment or a losing venture, the people are entitled to know. The commissioners have paved the way.

SALEM
At the regular church services Sunday Rev. Mr. Herr preached on the subject for his discourse: "The Real and Almost-Christians."

Henry Fox of New Haven spent the week end at the Fox homestead and entertained friends from Kansas City over the week end.

Miss Rose Pittner of Brooklyn is the guest of Misses Violet and Helen Rogers. Miss Elizabeth Rogers and Miss Minnie Rogers of New London are guests of Mr. and Mrs. James Lane.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Robinson and daughter Myrtle of Portland were guests of relatives here Saturday.

Harry Moore of Bristol spent the week end at his home here.

William Day and Michael Mahan spent Tuesday in Middletown.

Ernest L. Spencer was a New London visitor Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Ewing of New London were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Rathbun.

Everett Hood has returned after a few days spent in New York and Hartford.

Mr. and Mrs. George Rathbun and children and Miss Kinney of Norwich spent Sunday with Fred and Edwin Harris.

Charles Littlefield entertained relatives from Providence Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Murray and children, Ruth and Renaud, were guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. N. L. Clark.

Miss Sarah Sahamuckler, who has been employed at Ocean Beach, has returned home.

Miss Minnie Kingsley has returned after attending the summer school for teachers at New Haven.

Miss Annie Schumucker of Hartford is spending a few weeks at her home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ray and Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Ray and daughter of Middletown were recent visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Standish.

Ernest Fraser was a Colchester caller Thursday.

Harold Darling of Orange is spending some time at his home here.

James Lane and Meyer Schumucker were recent visitors in Colchester.

Mrs. Carl Rogers has returned from a visit of two weeks with relatives in Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. John Warner of East Hartford called on friends here recently.

Eliza, who made an eight-inch incision. Miss Lillian Ambley, who has been with her brother here for the past four weeks, is at Memorial hospital, Worcester.

The annual Sunday school picnic is to be held soon at Webster lake.

Rupert Gelsler and Lawrence Ryan have entered a trade school at Lynn, Mass.

A benefit dance for Smith college at the town hall Saturday night was superintended by Miss Muriel Backus.

Miss Prudence Paine broke her arm, falling while playing tennis recently.

Rev. Mr. Calhoun preached at Brandy Hill Sunday afternoon. During the pastor's vacation for the present month the supplies are to be the same as are furnished for the Putnam Baptist church.

Invitations are out for the wedding of Miss Fernald Pearl Noyes and Walter Myron Cole today (Saturday).

Miss Ellen Reynolds of Worcester is visiting her great-grandmother here.

WESTMINSTER
The pastor's theme Sunday morning was "Reverence for God's house and sacred things," based on Ex. 3: 1-5. The attendance was very good and several had brought summer guests.

For the Wednesday evening hour of home worship Aug. 11th, the topic is Our Harvest Here and Hereafter. Bible passage, St. Matt. 13: 1-23.

Tomorrow (Sunday) morning the pastor exchanged with the Scotland pastor and Miss McCaffery, a teacher in the trades department of the Connecticut institute for the blind in Hartford, will sing an offertory solo by request.

The attendance at the church school was large last Sunday.

Mrs. George Schroeder of Jersey City is spending the balance of the summer with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Jones.

Miss M. Augusta Bunce of Richmond Hill, N. Y., is visiting in the family of her sister, Mrs. Jennie A. Meade, at sunnyside farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold George have returned from their wedding trip in Canada and will make their home for the present with the parents of Mr. George at Flatbush, N. Y.

Mrs. Charles Barlow recently entertained two of her sisters, Mrs. Bennett of Providence and Mrs. Taylor of Pawtucket, at R. I.

The Ladies' Aid society met Tuesday afternoon in their room at the parsonage with a large attendance. This society has a number of orders for quilts on hand. After a busy afternoon the usual supper and good time concluded the session.

An informal invitation party was held Tuesday evening at Broadmeadows Inn, this name lately given to H. Koenig's summer home here. Dancing, music and refreshments provided the entertainment.

At the church school Sunday it was decided to hold the annual picnic next week, and committees were appointed to make arrangements, the time and place to be announced Sunday. Parents and friends will be invited to come and enjoy the day with the children. The picnic last year was a great success.

J. R. A. Jones is recovering from his recent serious illness.

A number of summer guests are in town in the various homes.

Mr. and Mrs. George Roberts, who spent their honeymoon here, have returned to New Haven.

Rev. Alexander Kukko of Worcester was a recent visitor in town.

Jacob Hagopian and his little son, former residents in town, spent Sunday with relatives here, returning to Providence Monday.

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GOODYEAR
Mrs. Thomas Crowe and children returned Wednesday from Watch Hill, where they have been spending two weeks' vacation.

The Misses Sidel, employed in the office of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. at Akron, O., are guests of H. M. Coulter this week.

Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Lewis and daughter, Hazel Lewis, and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Fournier are spending their vacation at Quononocung, R. I.

Supt. R. W. Boyd attended the annual meeting in New York Saturday last of the New Bedford Textile association club and was elected president for the eleventh consecutive time.

For the sixth annual automobile outing of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., Inc., the party will leave here this (Saturday) morning at 8:15, standard time, for Rocky Point. There will be about 100 cars in line, led by Supt. R. W. Boyd, followed by the Goodyear band. They will parade through Danielson and the band will give a concert there. The Goodyear company will give everyone a dinner ticket before leaving Goodyear this

(Saturday) morning.

The local troop of Boy Scouts will go into camp at New Bedford this (Saturday) afternoon for a week.

Goodyear band held a rehearsal in the hall on Wednesday evening.

A baseball meeting was held in the rooms of the Goodyear Social club Wednesday evening.

Many fans are interested in the outcome of the three-game series with Connecticut Mills of Danielson. The first game is to be played in Danielson Sunday afternoon.

PENDELTON HILL
Mr. and Mrs. Chapman Johnson and Mrs. Martin O. Chapman motored to Matunuck Beach Sunday. They there joined a party of friends from this and adjoining communities and spent the day picnicking at Matunuck and Quononocung. Ell King, Miss Hattie White, Mrs. Thomas White and Frank Powell were members of the party.

Miss Bertha Gilbert and her mother are guests for two weeks of Miss Grace Gilbert, who is spending the summer in the apartments of Mrs. Jennie June Thompson.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brown have purchased a place in Ashaway and will move there in the early fall. This is a matter of deepest regret to the community, as Pendleton Hill cannot afford to lose such excellent people.

Mrs. Anne Cook is the guest of her son Morton at Farmholm in Stonington.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Bliven and family of New London and Mrs. Gertrude Bliven Brightman of Westerly were guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Thompson.

A number of relatives from this place attended the funeral of Frank A. Thompson in lower North Stonington Monday afternoon. Much sympathy is expressed

on every hand for Mrs. Thompson.

John Chapman of Bridgeport, accompanied by his sister, Mrs. James Lee, recently visited his birthplace, the Captain Joe Chapman house, at Billings' Point.

Mrs. Floella Chapman Gallup is retaining her health.

Mrs. William Maine is also improving.

Mrs. Charles Marble sold five quarts of late and luscious strawberries Tuesday at 55 cents a quart.

HIGGANUM
A new interchangeable steel bulletin board has been placed upon the Congregational church lawn. The Young People's society donated it to the church. A new hymnal board of the same make was presented the church by the pastor, Dr. J. Edward Cody, a teacher in one of the New York schools, in spending the summer vacation at his home in this place.

The Frissell Fabric company is employing a number of girls in their mill, making bread for evening. Mr. Chadwick, the superintendent, has purchased the Dr. Kellogg property and has moved his family from Middletown.

Dr. Raymond will preach Sunday morning, Aug. 8th, 11 o'clock. His theme will be "Is There a Material Hell?" The piano recital given under the management of Miss Edith Raymond in the Congregational church was a success, although tonight was stormy, more than 60 were in attendance and enjoyed the program, including piano solos and recitations by Mrs. John Russell and Miss Raymond.

Mrs. Austin is entertaining friends from New York.

CANTERBURY
The Canterbury grange held on its regular meeting night Wednesday evening an open meeting to which all local farmers had been invited in order to form a town organization of the County Farmers' association. Mr. Davis, the county agent, gave a talk on the work of the farmers' association, or farm bureau, and told of the need of a town organization. Committees were appointed as follows: Dairy-

ing, Mr. Herr; poultry, H. Lecraw; soils and crops, C. Sims; fruit, J. Sawyer. These men will co-operate with M. R. Wiberley, town director for Canterbury, in carrying on work of the farm bureau and assisting local farmers in their various lines of work. Meetings of local men will be held later for discussion of farm problems and consideration of any suggestions.

UNCASVILLE
Rev. Walter P. Bush of New London preached in the Methodist Episcopal church Sunday morning in the absence of Rev. C. C. Tibbets, who was at Northfield, Mass.

Twelve women friends surprised Mrs. John Dart Wednesday night, at her home in celebration of her birthday. The callers presented her an electric flat. Mrs. Dart recently sold her house to the Thames Specialty company and is soon to leave town.

The church prayer meetings will be omitted through August.

Mrs. George Newton entertained guests from Hartford over the week end.

Danbury—The annual Friends' meeting, attended by local people, will be held at the old Quaker meetinghouse at Peach Lake, N. Y., Sunday, Aug. 8, at 2 o'clock.

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