

PRICE ONE CENT.

EXTRA DENOUNCED!

Strong Presentment by the Grand Jury Against the Sheriff's Office.

Scandalous Corruption and Wholesale Perversion of Law and Justice.

Illegal Auction Fees Only One of the Grave Abuses Discovered.

More Indictments to Be Presented Before the Investigation Ends.

\$217,250 Paid by the City to the Sheriff in Five Years, Besides Illegal Gain.

At noon to-day the Grand Jury of the County of New York came into Part I of General Sessions and handed in a presentment making a startling arraignment of evil abuses and corruption which they have discovered in the Sheriff's office.

The presentment was read to Judge Fitzgerald by the foreman and created a profound sensation. After it had been read the Grand Jury retired, and will further investigate the Sheriff's department.

The presentment is as follows:

The Grand Jury of the city and county of New York present as follows:

During the past five years, since from other courts charges brought to their attention concerning the administration of the Sheriff's office of this county and of the County Jail under his charge.

While this investigation is not yet completed, the Grand Jury deem it their duty without further delay to bring to the attention of this court the facts hereinafter set forth, that action may be had towards a speedy removal of the grave abuses now being perpetrated by the Sheriff's office.

After declaring that the proper conduct of the Sheriff's office is of the highest concern to the community, it goes on to state that during the past five years, since from other courts charges brought to their attention concerning the administration of the Sheriff's office of this county and of the County Jail under his charge.

The fees of the Sheriff for the performance of services in behalf of the county are fixed by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment yearly, except in those cases where provision is made by the general laws of the State.

These, which are scheduled at \$1.50 for carrying prisoners to the Penitentiary, and to and from the prison to the courts, 35 cents for summoning jurors and 30 cents for filling returns of criminal convictions, the Grand Jury declares as entirely out of proportion to the value of the services rendered.

During the year 1889 the sum of \$16,648 was paid for this service, \$15,580.70 for reporting criminal convictions requiring clerical labor, and \$9,737.25 for summoning jurors. The annual appropriations of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment have been as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Amount. 1885: \$50,000; 1886: \$50,000; 1887: \$50,000; 1888: \$50,000; 1889: \$50,000.

The presentment continues:

The Grand Jury have thoroughly examined the system under which auctions are conducted by the Sheriff, and find that the same are at the present time managed, and of the system formerly in vogue, and while it appears that these sales are less liable to criticism now than in former years, yet the present method is highly objectionable, and by the system now followed, the Sheriff is enabled to make a large profit upon his sales to a firm of auctioneers, upon an understanding that they are to be compensated for their services according to the measure of the attorney representing the bidder in whose favor the auctions are held, and in consideration of procuring the same, shall divide the commission with the Sheriff.

After the sale the money is received by the particular case receives from the auctioneer an account of the proceeds of the sale, and presents the attorney with a bill, naming a certain specific amount therein as auctioneers' fees, and charging for the same the expenses incurred for labor, advertising, cartage and storage, if the amount of the proceeds is less than the amount of the bill, the Sheriff is to make up the deficiency.

The Sheriff should receive an annual salary in a sum proportional to the amount of his duties, and the fees prescribed by law for his official services should be paid into the county treasury.

His personal responsibility and liability for his own acts and the acts of his subordinates should be defined, and under the constitution now in force, the Sheriff should be prevented from changing his office.

The Sheriff should receive a proper salary, and the duties of his office should be defined, and the number of deputies should be appointed, at regular salaries, payable by the county.

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This sum \$12,800.14 was divided between the Sheriff and the auctioneers as commissions, besides the sum of \$7,107.70 received by the Sheriff for his services.

Then assuming the auctioneers to receive no more than a reasonable compensation for their services in the past four years, the Sheriff of this county has appropriated to himself the meretricious work has been required, the amount being proportioned to the importance of the sum involved in the case, and the conscience of the attorney.

Aside from these commissions the Sheriff has been accustomed under no greater guise of right to charge and receive a large sum as "extra compensation" for their services, exceeding processes, particularly when involving the meretricious work has been required, the amount being proportioned to the importance of the sum involved in the case, and the conscience of the attorney.

The greatest evil of this system of dividing commissions and "extra compensation" is that the debtors, the proceeds of whose property are thus distributed, are not consulted in their testimony, and the judgments against them are returned to their credit as being satisfied for an amount less than the sum allowed the Sheriff by the attorney. The injustice and injury resulting therefrom are self-evident.

Where the process is executed by the Sheriff himself he receives the "extra compensation" if one of his deputies acts the deputy receives the benefit, paying over to the Sheriff, however, nine-tenths of the proceeds, but in all cases the benefit receives one-half of the auctioneer's commissions.

No that with scarcely an appreciable reservation, the Sheriff receives the legal fees allowed him by law for the services he performs the actual service, while the deputy's remuneration is entirely based on his skill in inducing an alienated debtor to accept of a compromise of his debt.

During the year 1889 the Sheriff's profits, after deducting from the fees received by him from all sources the legitimate expenses of his office, were fully \$150,000.

How much of this profit he derived as "extra compensation" cannot be ascertained with any certainty, but it is believed as no proper record of those receipts has been preserved, he has so loosely kept that very little satisfactory information can be obtained from them.

Entries of payments made to the Sheriff for services rendered for private and official purposes are indiscriminately mingled by the Sheriff with the entries of his ordinary business, and it is impossible to ascertain the true nature of the various abuses.

But greater abuses than these exist and have existed almost uninterruptedly in many years past. For twenty years, over which period the evidence taken during the present investigation, and the affairs of the Sheriff's office in this county have been administered with an entire disregard of the obligations imposed by law upon the Sheriff.

The present management there is nothing to commend and much to deplore. No far as can be ascertained there has been no record of the manner of executing processes, or of the amount of fees received by him by virtue of his office.

Deputy sheriffs and their subordinates have been without regard to the qualifications of that office, and have habitually neglected the gross corruption with respect to the execution of the Sheriff's office.

The Grand Jury do not deem it necessary to state the names of the various officers of the Sheriff's office, but they do state that the variety of these evils, a recital of a few of them will, it is believed, suffice.

It is stated that the Sheriff's office has been so far from being a model of efficiency, that it is believed that the whole period over which this investigation extends, together with the facts hereinafter set forth, that action may be had towards a speedy removal of the grave abuses now being perpetrated by the Sheriff's office.

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DONNELLY DEAD.

Sudden Demise of the Beloved Vicar-General This Morning.

Pastor of St. Michael's and One of the Pillars of the Church.

For Thirty-Three Years in Charge of His Great Parish.

The Very Rev. Father Arthur J. Donnelly died suddenly about 10 o'clock this morning at his home, 383 West 12th street, of Bright's disease.

Father Donnelly had been in feeble health for some time, but his demise was unexpected and comes with a shocking suddenness.

The dead priest was one of the most learned and best beloved of his diocese. He was a Vicar-General, and held the episcopate of the diocese. He was second in rank only to Mr. Preston, and was pastor of St. Michael's Church in West Thirty-second street.

His death was a great loss to the church, and his services were highly valued by the people. He was a man of great learning and piety, and his death is a great bereavement to the church.

He was seventy-one years of age at the time of his death. He had been thirty-three years pastor of St. Michael's Parish, having built up the church, founded parochial schools, and founded St. Michael's Church in West Thirty-second street.

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CROKER'S CALL.

Tammany's Chief Needed in the Hour of Political Peril.

REPORTED ON HIS WAY HOME.

Gilroy Says if He Doesn't Come They'll Chose Another Leader.

The astounding disclosures made in the minority of Senator Fassett's investigating committee that exists among the subordinates in the Sheriff's department, as well as the testimony that points to extreme irregularities on the part of those higher in authority, have precipitated a sort of panic among the local leaders of Tammany Hall.

In the absence of the Big Chief, Richard Croker, they do not know exactly which leader will step into the breach, and this morning he gathered about them, and this morning all sorts of wild rumors were afloat as to the probable action Tammany would take in regard to its present difficulties.

One thing seems certain, and that is that Mr. Croker has decided to cut short his visit in Europe and will return post-haste to resume control of the helm and endeavor to get the organization out of the scrape in which it now finds itself.

Commissioner of Public Works Gilroy is authority for the statement that Tammany Hall has no leader in the city since Mr. Croker's departure for Europe.

The impression seems to prevail, he said this morning to an Evening World reporter, "that I have assumed the leadership of Tammany Hall in Mr. Croker's absence." This is simply because the chief of the party started some time ago that effect has never been contradicted.

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PIETY, BURGLARY.

Phases in the Life of a Prominent Citizen of Montclair.

Constant at Church, Persistent in Midnight Robbery.

Jekily-Hyde Tuthill and His Wife Safe Behind Iron Bars.

Montclair, N. J., March 25.—One of the most respectable and respected citizens of this town has been James Tuthill, a boss mason. He came here from Port Jervis five years ago. He found plenty of work and soon after his residence here he married.

He married and went to live in a cozy home on Bloomfield avenue. He and his wife joined the Montclair Congregational Church, and won the respect and esteem of their neighbors.

Tuthill became very popular with his fellow-townsmen. He joined Excelsior Hose Company No. 2 and several social clubs, and every one who knew him liked him. He never drank nor swore, was ever ready to help any one in need and counted his friends by the score.

Many of the residents of Montclair are men of wealth, doing business in New York. Tuthill did work for them all, and was received on friendly terms in their homes, and ordered food to eat there at once.

Tuthill had no children of his own, so he became the friend of all the little ones in town. He was very kind and generous, and by them was considered the most estimable man in town.

One thing seems certain, and that is that Mr. Croker has decided to cut short his visit in Europe and will return post-haste to resume control of the helm and endeavor to get the organization out of the scrape in which it now finds itself.

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