

MEEKER SILENT ON SHORTAGE.

Accused Treasurer of New Jersey Firemen's Relief Fund Very Depressed When Arraigned for Embezzlement.

AMOUNT MAY BE \$20,000.

Speculation in Bad Loans Supposed to Have Led to Arrest of Newark Official—Check for \$11,000 Given Him Cannot Be Found.

(Special to The Evening World.)
NEWARK, N. J., Dec. 25.—Judge Lambert's court here was crowded today when Francis I. Meeker, Superintendent of the Salvage Corps, was arraigned charged with having embezzled \$5,000 of the funds of the New Jersey Firemen's Relief Association.

Meeker, who was almost prostrated when arrested, was still in a very depressed mood when he appeared in court and acted as though he did not care what transpired.

Several of the prisoner's friends who sat near him said that he would be able to explain the shortage, which may reach \$20,000, and possibly refund the greater part of it, but Meeker had not a word to say.

He sat with his head resting on his hands and gave no heed to questions asked him.

Arrest a Surprise.
The throng in court was accounted for by the fact that Meeker was well known and bore a high reputation. His arrest caused big surprise and all are interested in learning where the money went.

William C. Axtel, Assistant Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, who appeared as complainant, said in court that Meeker, as treasurer of the Relief Association, had full charge of all its funds. The income of the association is about \$18,000 a year. There are now on the beneficiary list 165 persons, including aged and disabled firemen and widows and orphans of deceased firemen who were members of the association.

The income has not been sufficient during the last five years to meet the benefit claims, and the association has been compelled to draw on its permanent assets. These are said to be still in excess of \$100,000.

The first intimation that something was wrong with Meeker's accounts was when the December payments to the beneficiaries were delayed. A meeting of the Board of Representatives of the association was held Dec. 15. Then it transpired that the treasurer's accounts showed a shortage of \$100.

An Oversight, He Said.
"It is an oversight. I will make it good to-morrow," said Meeker. The other officials believed him. At the same meeting Meeker received a check for \$11,000. It was then learned that Meeker failed to deposit this check in the bank in which the association's deposits were kept. All the week applications for money were made to Meeker by beneficiaries of the fund.

The total amount due them was \$3,128 and they were depending on receiving the money to enable them to enjoy Christmas. None of them received a cent.

In the meantime the officers of the association were investigating. Meeker was requested to make explanations, and his answers were unsatisfactory. John S. Gibson, State auditor of the association, was consulted. He obtained enough information to convince the officers that Meeker was dishonestly involved, and his arrest was determined upon.

He was taken in custody at his home, No. 18 Pine street. The amount of shortage named in the warrant is \$5,000, but members of the organization say that \$11,000 cannot be accounted for and that the deficiency may reach \$20,000. Meeker refused to answer the questions put by the court, his lawyer, Leslie Edwards, talking for him. He waived examination, and was committed to jail in default of \$10,000 bail. Friends have offered to furnish bail but he declines.

Friends Will Aid Him.
Those who knew Meeker say he is not really dishonest and a move has already been started to raise the amount of the shortage and have the embezzlement charge withdrawn.

The statement that Meeker lost his money speculating in stocks is denied to-day. His downfall is attributed to a mania for building and loan associations. When the Republic Building and Loan Association was found to be in a tight place a few weeks ago the subscribers hastened to sell at whatever figure they could secure. Meeker was said to be possessed of a sublime faith that the score was unwarranted and he bought all the shares offered, borrowing money and using the funds entrusted to his care to do so.

Subsequently Attorney-General Meeker closed down on the association and appointed ex-Gov. Voorhees as receiver. By this move, it is understood, Meeker lost \$10,000.

Meeker's record for twenty-five years as a fire-fighter is without blemish and he is noted as a daring and fearless fireman. His record as a life-saver is a long one. He was in charge of the Salvage Corps at the time of his arrest. His private life is above suspicion. His chief fault appears to have been over-confidence in the integrity of others.

WON'T LYNCH DYING MAN.

Crowd Disperses When Told Murderer is Mortally Wounded.
HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Dec. 25.—Chief of Detectives John Donohue was shot and killed on the street by Frank Dougherty, a race track follower here. Dougherty, it is said, had struck a woman with an axe, and as Donohue attempted to arrest him he shot the detective in the eye, killing him instantly.

He then started to run up the street, but had gone only a short distance when a boy sixteen years old, who was in a buggy with a gun, shot him in the face and breast. Dougherty then fired a shot into his own head. The doctors say he cannot live.

There was talk of lynching, but on the assurance that Dougherty could not survive his wounds the crowd dispersed.

Miss Rebecca Knox Quite Ill.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—Miss Rebecca Knox, daughter of the Attorney-General, who returned from Pittsburgh for Christmas, is quite ill at her parents' home on K street. Miss Knox, who was to have started for California on Saturday to join her aunt and uncle in a trip to Japan, has been obliged to give up a journey.

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TREASURER MEEKER HELD ON EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGE.



IMPERSONATED A GOVERNOR.

Man Who Registered as Beckham Lands in Jail.

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 25.—A man of twenty-eight registered at the Palm Hotel two weeks ago as "J. C. W. Beckham, Frankfort, Ky.," and was supposed to be the Governor of Kentucky.

Society took him up and made a lion of him. A telegram purporting to be from George E. Cortelyou, President Roosevelt's secretary, naming a date for an interview, was shown by him. Later he sent a message to the Sheriff at Clinton, Ky., commencing the death sentence of a prisoner to life imprisonment. This added to his popularity among the ladies, but the telegram came back indorsed "Party not known here." The manager of the hotel then

had him locked up, charged with securing money by false pretenses. His identity is not known.

"CRIPPLE" WIELDED CRUTCH.
Beat Man on the Head Who Told Him to Move Away.

John Doland, pretending to be a cripple, complained when John W. Lowen, of No. 546 Communipaw avenue, Jersey City, gave him only a penny as alms in a saloon at No. 78 Washington street, Hoboken, this morning, and when Lowen told him to move away, Doland assailed Lowen with a broomstick which he used as a crutch.

Lowen was knocked down and beaten on the head until he was unconscious and his skull fractured. Doland was arrested and held by Recorder Stanton without bail, to await the result of his injuries. Lowen is in the Hoboken Hospital, where the physicians say he may die.

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Stern Brothers

TO-MORROW, DECIDED REDUCTIONS IN

Boys' & Youths' Clothing

SAILOR & RUSSIAN SUITS, Blue Serges, Chevots & Mixtures, with silk emblems or braid, 3 to 12 yrs., \$3.75
Formerly \$4.95 to 6.95

NORFOLK SUITS, plain colors, mixtures, checks and plaids, 7 to 16 yrs., \$5.00
Formerly \$6.95 to 9.75

DOUBLE-BREADED & VEST SUITS, chevots, cassimeres, tweeds and homespuns, 9 to 16 yrs., \$5.00
Formerly \$6.95 to 9.75

CHILDREN'S OVERCOATS, light and dark tans and blue, emblem on sleeve, many wool lined, 3 to 8 yrs., \$8.75
Formerly \$10.00 to 12.90

BOYS' REEFERS, frieze and chinchilla, emblem on sleeve, also imported mixtures and plaids, 3 to 12 yrs., \$8.75
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BOYS' OVERCOATS, fine qualities, in gray, black, plaids and mixtures, 6 to 16 yrs., \$8.75
Formerly \$10.00 to 12.90

YOUNG MEN'S SUITS, double and single-breasted, 15 to 20 yrs., \$8.75
Formerly \$10.00 to 12.90

YOUNG MEN'S OVERCOATS, extra long, broad military shoulders, 16 to 20 yrs., \$8.75
Formerly \$10.00 to 12.90

REDUCTION SALE OF

Misses' Suits & Girls' Coats

MISSES' WALKING & VELVET SHIRT WAIST SUITS, sizes 14 to 18 yrs., Heretofore \$15.00 & 18.00 \$9.75

MISSES' WALKING SKIRTS, of neat mixtures, 14 to 18 yrs., Heretofore \$7.50 \$4.75

MISSES' MONTE CARLO & FITTED JACKETS, of fine kerseys, 14 to 18 yrs., Heretofore \$15.00 \$9.95

GIRLS' LONG COATS, plain and fancy trimmed, 6 to 14 yrs., Heretofore \$11.95 & 16.50 \$7.95, 10.90

ON MAIN FLOOR, ANNEX, SPECIAL VALUES IN

Seasonable Shoes For Boys, Girls and Children

Boys' Calf & Kidskin Lace, 9 to 13½, \$2.00

Misses' Kid Button, patent leather tips, 11 to 2, \$2.00

Children's sizes 6 to 8 \$1.50 sizes 8 to 10½ \$1.75

Infants' Shoes, Black and Bronze, 75c

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OF THE

Famous Sweet, Orr & Co.'s \$3 Trousers

At \$1.75

Made from pure all-wool striped Cassimeres, strongly put together.

As a special inducement during this week we will give away a Patent Collapsible Dinner Pail with every pair of these pants, so as to introduce Sweet, Orr & Co.'s pants to the mechanics of upper New York.

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WEST 14TH ST. Satisfaction Guaranteed or Money Promptly Refunded.

For To-Morrow We Have Prepared

More Gigantic Four-Hour Sales.

As Usual, There Are Absolutely Unrivalled Values.
Many persons make a practice of coming to this store every Saturday morning though they may have no other reason for a trip to the shopping district. IT PAYS. No matter what the season of the year, we get Saturday morning specials that appeal with exceptional force to every lover of true economy.

Girls' Coats Less than Half Price.

Positively from 9 A. M. Till 1 P. M. Only.

A New Lot Like Those That Sold So Rapidly Last Week.

\$6 Full Length English Ulsters at \$2.98.

These are just the same as the coats that found new owners so quickly in last week's four-hour sale. Another maker saw the success of the effort and offered us his entire stock on hand at a ridiculously low price. There are 200 garments, made from all-wool heavy-weight pebbled chevot, with Monte Carlo backs, double caps and double reverse cuffs. Cloth-faced, man-tailored, and shown in navy blue, red and brown. Sizes 4 to 14. Special for four hours to-morrow at..... **2.98**

Women's 3.50 Walking Skirts, at 1.98

Positively from 9 A. M. Till 1 P. M. Only.

The Best Offering of Its Sort of the Entire Season.

These Are Exceptionally Good Walking Skirts, made from all-wool gray melton or men's suitings in pepper and salt effects. They are patterned in the full flare style, with slotted seams, and are handsomely tailor stitched with white or black. They have satin bands and are strictly man tailored. Good value at \$3.50, offered for four hours, special to-morrow, at..... **1.98**

A Great Special in Women's Waists.

Positively from 9 A. M. Till 1 P. M. Only.

Usually Sold at \$1 and \$1.25. Special at 49c.

We secured 400 Waists to offer at this price for to-morrow's four-hour sale. They are made from handsome woolen Scotch plaids in various colorings, such as red, blue, royal and green. They have box pleated fronts, trimmed with large pearl buttons; bias back, new stock and cuff. Usually sold at \$1 and \$1.25; special to-morrow at..... **49c**

Boys' Goats and Suits Sacrificed.

Positively from 9 A. M. Till 1 P. M. Only.

Boys' \$4 and \$5 Russian Overcoats at \$1.67.

This Russian style is the season's most popular fad. It was almost by chance that we happened to secure a lot to sell at this price for to-morrow's four-hour sale. Sizes 3 to 8 years. Strictly all-wool materials, in blue, brown, tan, gray, olive and mixtures; made of kerseys, meltons, chevots and coverts. The coats are shown with or without red lined hoods. All have belted backs, silk velvet collars, two rows of brass buttons, made to button high at neck. The coats are exceptionally well made, are lined with triple warp Italian lining, and are extra long. We can sell only one coat to each customer. None Sent C. O. D., and No Mail Orders..... **1.67**

Boys' \$4 and \$5 Double-Breasted Suits at \$1.89.

You won't find an offering to equal this in many a day—for four hours only—don't forget that. The suits are shown in imported chevots, worsteds and cassimeres, sewed entirely with silk and made with extra line linings. Sizes 7 to 15. At this price we must decline to fill mail orders. We cannot send suits C. O. D., and can only sell one suit to each customer; special..... **1.89**

Stirring News of Men's Clothing.

Specials Positively from 9 A. M. Till 1 P. M. Only.

Men's Overcoats at Exactly Half Price.

The Most Phenomenal Offering Since the Men's Store Was Opened.

We bought this lot from an overstocked maker at a ridiculously low price. The coats are made from strictly all-wool materials in the popular Oxford gray shades. They are extra long, loose fitting garments, with all the style and swing that you'd expect to find in a garment offered usually at \$10. Silk velvet collars, vertical pockets, hand padded shoulders and raised seams. Double warp Italian lining. Sizes 34 to 42. A thoroughly good \$10 value on sale to-morrow for four hours at..... **5.00**

Men's \$14 All-Wool Suits To-Morrow at \$9.

When we say "strictly all wool" we mean exactly that and nothing else. There is no subterfuge, no evasion. We try to have our statements as straightforward and direct to the point as strong, simple English will make them. And because we are so careful in this regard, the Men's Store is always thronged after a special announcement. These suits are of fine all-wool chevots, tweeds, unfinished worsteds and meltons. A score of patterns in stripes, checks, plaids and mixtures. Single or double-breasted; mercerized Italian or tailor's serge lining. Sizes 34 to 44; special at..... **9.00**

Misses' Rubbers Like Cut at 23c. Per Pair.

Positively from 9 A. M. Till 1 P. M. Only.

This is a most exceptional offer, when you consider that the season for rubber wearing has scarcely begun. These rubbers are of good quality, in misses' sizes, with spring heels; sizes 11, 11½, 12, 12½, 13, 13½, 14 and 14½. On sale for four hours to-morrow at, per pair..... **23c**

Boys' and Girls' Shoes, for 4 Hours Only

For Boys—"Little Gents'" Lace Shoes, made from well-selected leather, with double soles, toe caps and spring heels, sizes 8½ to 13½, special to-morrow at..... **75c**

For Girls—School Shoes, made of box calf leather with heavy winter-weight soles, dull leather tops, lace style, with spring heels, sizes 7 to 14, special to-morrow at..... **75c**

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