

EVERY THEATRE IN THE CITY TO BE CLOSED SUNDAY

Mayor McClellan Says the Law as Declared by Justice O'Gorman Must Be Enforced—Theatrical Men Want Higher Courts to Rule.

There will be no theatrical performance or concert in any place of amusement in this city Sunday afternoon or night no matter how high class the exhibition—if an admission fee is charged at the door.

Mayor McClellan conferred with Police Commissioner Bingham today and the Commissioner went away carrying with him the Mayor's full approval of a determination to enforce the law to the letter.

Must Enforce Law. "What is there to say? The law must be obeyed. There is no alternative," said the Mayor to a reporter for The Evening World shortly after the conference.

"When I get orders I know how to obey them," said Commissioner Bingham. "I am pleased at the definiteness of Justice O'Gorman's ruling. I leave no loopholes or alternatives. I have heard from the Corporation Counsel and the Mayor and the law will be enforced to the letter. I have prepared orders for the inspectors, and these will be sent out today."

"In the cases of the many who have already purchased tickets for next Sunday afternoon and night performances—won't the closing up of places prove an injustice to them?" the Commissioner was asked.

"I can't help it. The orders will be sent out today. There is plenty of time for the theatrical people to settle with their patrons."

Theatrical Men to Fight. But while the authorities are thus preparing to practically shut up every theatre and concert hall—even the Metropolitan and the Manhattan Opera House—Sunday night, the lawyers of the theatrical and concert people are determined to have a review of Justice O'Gorman's decision by the Appellate Division, and this may be accomplished in two ways.

It is stated today by Lawyer Grossman that in view of the conflicting opinions of Referee Lawrence and Justice O'Gorman the matter might very properly be carried to the Appellate Division for review. But there is no appeal directly from the decision of Justice O'Gorman.

Another means of bringing the matter before the Appellate Division consists in making a direct violation by carrying out one of the usual Sunday afternoon or night concerts or theatricals at a recognized place of amusement, and this would result in an arrest, through the institution of a writ of habeas corpus, the defendant could carry the case to the higher court, where a review of the opinion of Justice O'Gorman would necessarily occur.

The lawyers, practically agreed today to get together for the common object. Mr. Grossman will probably represent the body, which has carried on a long fight in the interests of Sunday night theatricals and concerts and is well

How the Snowstorm Blockaded Traffic Along Water-Front Streets

(Photographed for The Evening World by a Staff Artist.)



DEATH, INJURY AND ESCAPES IN FIRES OF A DAY

2 MEN BADLY BURNED.

Six Near Suffocation in Fierce Blaze That Upsets Bronx Traffic.

Charles Johnson, ninety years old, a recluse and a man of mystery, was found burned to death in the rear of his printing establishment on the fourth floor of No. 113 Warren street today.

Firemen were called to the house by a citizen who discovered the blaze shortly before 7 o'clock. Before the firemen arrived the flames had climbed to the roof and eaten their way through to the third floor. Members of Engine Company No. 2 got to the fourth floor by the rear fire-escape, and peering through the window, they saw the body of the old man.

When the fire was out the police took the body to the Church street station and waited for a claimant. None came, and then efforts were made to learn something of his family or friends.

It was learned that old Johnson, who was generally known in the neighborhood as "Old Pop Johnson," had lived in the rear of the printing establishment for the past five or six years.

How long the sign "C. Johnson, Commercial Printer," had been over the door of the Warren street house no one could recall. Some men said they could remember it when they were children.

Considered Man of Means.

Years ago C. Johnson was considered a man of means. It was said of him that he had made up his mind to speculate in suburban property, and that he owned a large tract in the Bronx, where he was supposed to make his home with his wife and several grown children.

Mr. Johnson was always a crusty old chap. He told no one his domestic affairs, and he confided in no one concerning his business. The little that was known of him was told by a printer who was formerly in his employ. Johnson's old good printing work, and his customers' steady patronage, were his main concerns, grew up all about him.

When Johnson took up his living quarters in the printing house, it was reported that he had quarreled with his wife and children. He slept on a little cot in a corner of the loft, and near the cot was a gas stove on which he prepared his meals.

Grew Mops Taciturn.

If the old man had been taciturn before he went down in the business district to live, he was doubly so after the report of the row with his family. Days and weeks passed and he never spoke to any one, save the printer in his employ. He got no mail except that called at his shop which he never opened. The old man's manner was too forbidding for social intercourse, or the passing of ordinary necessities of the day.

Johnson was seen hobnobbing near his shop with a lot of bird or some simple food supply under his arm. He would climb to his loft and there he would stay until more food was needed. The fire this morning undoubtedly started from a gas stove. It is believed that the old man was preparing his meagre breakfast when the stove became distracted. The position in which his body was found showed that he had tried to climb out of the rear window to the fire-escape. A plinking press blocked his way, however, and the flames crept up on him before he could climb over it.

"Mean" Relative Says.

Thomas Johnson, of No. 23 East One Hundred and Forty-fifth street, brother and stepson of the dead man, because of his marriage to his deceased wife's sister, said that the old man was a "mean" printer who had once been a wealthy man, but had lost much of his fortune through his unbusinesslike investments.

"My uncle," said the stepson-nephew, "was so blindly close that he would not pay the interest on his mortgages nor the taxes on his property, and lost it all. He was a miser, and he was so mean that after his marriage to my mother he did not live with her as he would not pay any of her expenses. He found his only real pleasure in hoarding money. I think he would have sunk away large sums in books and callings which have been burned. All he leaves is a few lots in Woodlawn, worth about \$1,000 each."

When the firemen and policemen who were called about the burning shop heard of the hoards of money that might be found amid the debris, they drove into it with the zeal of gophers.

Boats and hose was laid clear across the river front effectively stopping the street traffic on all thoroughfares between Greenwich street and the river.

Candle Set Whiskey Ablaze.

Baum and Webster inadvertently started the fire with a candle. A leaking cask of whiskey with a lighted candle. The vapor caught fire and in a second the whole third floor on which the defective cask was located was ablaze.

The spirit-impregnated air literally caught fire all through the building and the employees were compelled to flee for their lives. Fortunately Webster and Baum were able to move, or they would have been burned to death.

Muller led his men to the roof, after responding to the first alarm. He stepped on a snow-covered skylight and went through, severing an artery in his wrist on an edge of broken glass. Prompt treatment was all that saved him from bleeding to death.

The fire was stubborn and spectacular. Frequent explosions marked its progress as it ate through the long piles of barrels and casks of whiskey and spirits. By hard work the firemen confined the blaze to the distillery building.

MANY ESCAPE DEATH BY FIRE IN THE BRONX.

It took four alarms and all the fire apparatus above the Harlem River to check a fire today in the furniture store of George Fennell & Co. at No. 260 and 262 Third avenue, between One Hundred and Forty-ninth street and Westchester avenue in the busiest business block of the Bronx.

The firemen, working in the driving storm, had whipped the blaze to a standstill. It pretty well cleaned out the brick building, threatened two adjoining structures and tied up or hampered the transit facilities of the borough—elevated, subway and surface.

The fire is supposed to have originated in the basement. Straw and waxing material were used as fuel, and almost instantly it got on to the upper openings and attacked the housefurnishings on the first floor. The seventy-five employees, men and women, came running out coughing and choking. Policeman Emil Hirsch rang the first call and then, foreseeing that there would be a fire, got the fire alarm from the Morrisania station on the wire and asked for the reserves.

Deputy Chief Ahearn sent in a second alarm as soon as he arrived. On the heels of this there was a third alarm, and finally when the flames had reached out to the front window the fourth alarm was sounded. A fourth fire engine, which was a fourth that brought everything on wheels in the Bronx fire force.

Freezing nozzles and whirling snow hampered the men, but in an hour they had the fire pretty well drawn out. A lone time it looked as if three nearby buildings—Augustus-Ireland's hotel, No. 258, Walbach's hotel, at No. 258, and the Subway restaurant building, at No. 256—would burn. These structures, which are built of frame, had the paint scorched off them.

For an hour or more the trolley cars of the West Farms, Fordham and Westchester avenue lines were tied up. Traffic on the joint structure of the Third avenue and Second avenue elevated roads was also suspended as the firemen needed the overhead tracks from which to fight the burning Bronx Park Subway, which issues from the earth just back of the Pennell garage, managed by the city, in the fashion. They ran slowly and on faulty schedules.

Some of the employees of the furniture company had narrow escapes. Six packers in the basement were almost killed when the smoke below them could climb the stairs. Twenty clerks who were caught on the third floor jumped out of the smoke before the roof of Walbach's hotel. A woman guest in the hotel wanted to jump out of a window overlooking the street, but she was not in the right danger. She faintly asked the window leader, Policeman O'Neill carried her home.

CITY PARK ENTRIES.

ORLEANS, La., Dec. 4.—The entries for tomorrow's races here are as follows: Fifth Race, 10:00, Divorcee, 10:10, Tarrar, 10:20, 111, Chapultepec, 11:30, Mac Fletcher, 10:40, 10:50, 11:00, 11:10, 11:20, 11:30, 11:40, 11:50, 12:00, 12:10, 12:20, 12:30, 12:40, 12:50, 1:00, 1:10, 1:20, 1:30, 1:40, 1:50, 2:00, 2:10, 2:20, 2:30, 2:40, 2:50, 3:00, 3:10, 3:20, 3:30, 3:40, 3:50, 4:00, 4:10, 4:20, 4:30, 4:40, 4:50, 5:00, 5:10, 5:20, 5:30, 5:40, 5:50, 6:00, 6:10, 6:20, 6:30, 6:40, 6:50, 7:00, 7:10, 7:20, 7:30, 7:40, 7:50, 8:00, 8:10, 8:20, 8:30, 8:40, 8:50, 9:00, 9:10, 9:20, 9:30, 9:40, 9:50, 10:00, 10:10, 10:20, 10:30, 10:40, 10:50, 11:00, 11:10, 11:20, 11:30, 11:40, 11:50, 12:00, 12:10, 12:20, 12:30, 12:40, 12:50, 1:00, 1:10, 1:20, 1:30, 1:40, 1:50, 2:00, 2:10, 2:20, 2:30, 2:40, 2:50, 3:00, 3:10, 3:20, 3:30, 3:40, 3:50, 4:00, 4:10, 4:20, 4:30, 4:40, 4:50, 5:00, 5:10, 5:20, 5:30, 5:40, 5:50, 6:00, 6:10, 6:20, 6:30, 6:40, 6:50, 7:00, 7:10, 7:20, 7:30, 7:40, 7:50, 8:00, 8:10, 8:20, 8:30, 8:40, 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