

Triple-Headed Inquiry in Rogers Poison Tragedy

WEATHER—Rain to-night. Tuesday clearing; cold.

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BATTLES RAGE IN MIDST OF STORMS; GERMANS REPORT GAINS IN FRANCE

MILLIONS LOST TO THE CITY BY SETTLING OUT OF COURT IN FRANCHISE TAX CASES

Cut Assessments Made Without Court Review Swell Profits of Interests.

MAYOR STARTS PROBE.

City Has Lost \$20,000,000 in Three Years by the Reductions.

Whether the city has probably been losing millions of dollars annually by the settlement of special franchise assessments is being considered by Mayor Mitchell.

Between 1910 and 1913 there were settled \$1,389,902,323 of special franchise assessments without any court review. The cases pending before the Mayor for more "settlements out of court" show a remarkable condition of affairs that has existed for some years, where such settlements were to the profit of vested interests. It is estimated that in three years such reductions have aggregated approximately \$1,500,000,000, and at the rate of 1 1/2 per cent. the city has lost over \$20,000,000 without having its day in court to decide whether the amount named was commensurate with the property holdings of the vested interests.

The cases pending were recommended for settlement at the death of Mayor Gaynor to Acting Mayor Kline, but he refused to act, and they are now before Mayor Mitchell. The starting point about the situation which the Mayor now has under advisement is that, if such settlements do not stop, the city will continue to lose millions annually, to the continued profit of such vested interests.

This is due to the fact that the State Tax Board has persistently continued to base assessments on previous reductions settled out of court, and has even gone so far as to lower some of these.

COMPANIES OWN FIGURES USED IN SETTLEMENT.

As a consequence, the very utilities that are annually increasing in value and earning capacity have been paying less in assessments every year. In other words, although the value of the franchises has increased annually, the money received by the city has decreased. This is directly due to the agreement of the city to settle cases out of court upon the basis of the so-called "net earning rule."

The companies have been allowed to present their own figures to the City Corporation Counsel. Instead of that official taking such figures before the courts to ascertain their true

(Continued on Second Page.)

WHITMAN MESSAGE TO-NIGHT

Governor Still Stands Firm for Tax Board Reorganization.

ALBANY, Jan. 18.—The protest against Gov. Whitman's proposed reorganization of the Tax Commission sent forth by Comptroller Travis has not affected Whitman's intention of urging the Legislature to carry out his suggestions. Whitman declared to-day that his message would be read to the Legislature to-night without change.

The Governor declared he had not read the letter of protest against the tax legislation sent out by Travis. He indicated that he would take no official cognizance of the Comptroller's plea.

CENTRAL PARK ZOO KEEPER IS KICKED BY BIG ELEPHANT

Talk About a Mule! Jewel's Foot Nearly Sends Hurton Through Wall.

This was the day selected for the annual neatsfoot oil and lamplblack massage of Jewel, the larger of the two elephants in the Central Park Zoo. However, Jewel was not massaged to-day, and Robert Hurton, her keeper, is nursing a large assortment of bruises scattered over his body.

Jewel is usually a tractable elephant and in previous years she has appeared to enjoy having oil and lamplblack rubbed into the crevices of her skin and polished over her hide until it glistened. Hurton entered Jewel's enclosure and started about the massaging of Jewel as nonchalantly as he might go about painting a wall. He hadn't proceeded far when Jewel lifted up her right hind leg and gave him a kick that sent him spinning the whole length of the enclosure.

An elephant's hind legs are different from those of other quadrupeds in that the knee is in front, and when an elephant sits down on a chair it has a lap. The peculiar formation of an elephant's hind leg enables it to kick forward like a man, and the kick Jewel landed on Hurton almost bumped him through the side of the elephant house. He saw there was something wrong with the elephant and started to leave the enclosure. Jewel got him again before he could escape, this time with her trunk, and again he was thrown across the enclosure. Then the other keepers and Head Keeper Snyder entered the cage with pitchforks and elephant hooks and rescued Hurton.

An ambulance was summoned from Flower Hospital and Dr. Goodman responded. He found Hurton had escaped with no broken bones. Jewel is under the influence of a bad spell that afflicts elephants occasionally. No attempt will be made to oil her until she returns to her normal condition.

HAMBURG-AMERICAN LINER PRESIDENT IS NOW REPORTED SUNK.

HAVANA, Jan. 18.—The British cruiser Hereward sank the Hamburg-American steamer President off Havana last night. It was announced to-day by Senator Acaba, Sub-Secretary of Foreign Relations of the Cuban State Department.

The ship was sent to the bottom nine miles off Havana while on her way from Porto Rico to Havana.

When officials of the Hamburg-American Line were informed of the above report it was stated that nothing had been heard from the President for nearly six months. The latest report as to the vessel stated that she was at Mozambique, British East Africa, on July 23.

GRIFFINS ADMIT SWINDLING FRIENDS OUT OF \$500,000

Wife Takes All the Responsibility in Pleading Guilty in Court.

SENTENCE WEDNESDAY.

Decided to Ask for Mercy Instead of Going to Trial To-Day.

Shouldering all the responsibility for the swindling which is supposed to have amounted to about half a million dollars, and for which her husband, Francis Hoyt Griffin, was jointly indicted, Mrs. Clara H. Griffin, to-day pleaded guilty to using the mails to defraud. Griffin entered a similar plea and Judge Pope, in the United States District Court, announced that he would take up the matter of sentence on Wednesday morning.

The trial of the Griffins upon the indictments against them was to have begun to-day, but at the last minute, after a consultation with their attorney, George Gordon Battle, they decided to enter the plea of guilty.

The details of the swindling charged against the Griffins have to do with a contract they claimed to have made to stenographic work for the Government. On the basis of this they obtained large sums of money from their friends and others. Griffin, who is a lawyer, Yale graduate and brother-in-law of the Comtesse de Rochefoucauld, came into court with his closely veiled wife. Mr. Battle told the Court: "Griffin was a lawyer in this city, with a large practice and an excellent position. His wife, before her marriage, had a stenographic bureau with a large clientele. Her family, which she had been supporting, became a matter of great expense to her on account of illness, and she unfortunately yielded to the temptation to get money by false pretenses."

"She pretended she had business resources which did not exist. On this basis she was able to get large sums of money. Afterward, by getting money from Peter to pay Paul, she managed to pay off some of the ones from whom she had at first obtained it.

"Her husband was at first entirely unaware that the pretenses of his wife were unfounded.

"As a lawyer he feels that it was his duty to investigate the statements. Therefore he desires to plead guilty with his wife to the three indictments."

Assistant United States District Attorney Hartridge related to the court the difficulties encountered in getting the Griffins into court at all and stated that he had witnesses from Chicago, Denver and Washington he wished to call against the Griffins "if the defendants should change their plea and insist upon going to trial."

"God bless you for the work you are doing," said the President.

Woman Who Admits Big Swindle And Husband She Tries to Defend



MR. AND MRS. GRIFFIN.

RATTLES AND BASKETS FOR WHITE HOUSE BABY; WILSON HOLDS HIM

Gifts Flowing in for Sayre Heir, Who May Be Named Woodrow—Father Sees His Son.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—President Wilson received a long list of callers at the Executive Offices later than usual to-day because of his desire to stand as long as possible with his grandson, the child of Mr. and Mrs. Frances H. Sayre, who was born at the White House yesterday.

If the Sayre baby follows the precedent he set during his first night he will be a model infant. He gave his attendants little trouble. A large heap of rattles sent by members of the Wilson and Sayre families and close friends were ready for the baby as soon as he should show interest in them. Several baby baskets had also been sent to the White House, but the one used was prepared by Mrs. Sayre herself.

Mr. Sayre, who arrived last night after the birth of his son, vied with the President to-day in displaying pride over the new addition to the White House family.

Much speculation was indulged in to-day as to the name for the baby. "Wilson Sayre" and "Woodrow Sayre" were the favorites. The christening will occur probably before Mrs. Sayre returns to Williamstown.

Baby Sayre was born in the north-east corner room of the second floor, looking out over the broad lawn and facing Pennsylvania Avenue, the city's main thoroughfare. Two trained nurses were present with Dr. Cary Grayson, the President's physician, and Dr. A. P. Davis of Philadelphia, Gynecologist.

The Sayre heir came into the world like thousands before him—minus such modern ideas as the twilight sleep.

WANTS \$25,000 DAMAGES FOR HER RUINED HAIR

Mrs. Davis Says Marcelle She Paid for Caused Loss of Beauty.

Mrs. Alice Davis, wife of Ben Wood Davis, of Cincinnati, saw a hair-dresser's ad in a theater program, which stated that she could get a marcelle wave, a permanent one, for from \$15 to \$25, so she called at A. Simonson's Fifth Avenue hairdressing shop, at No. 506 Fifth Avenue.

Mrs. Davis submitted to the treatment necessary, but, lo! she alleges, the marcelle wave was neither permanent nor pretty. In fact, she told the jury before Supreme Court Justice Delany to-day that most of her hair was burned. A marcelle wave would have been worth \$25,000 to her, she testified, but since she was deprived of that and her golden tresses burned in the bargain she wants \$25,000 damages. She is suing the Simonson concern for that amount. She alleges the machine used was overheated and burned her hair.

moments this forenoon to fondle his new grandson.

Col. Crook, President Lincoln's bodyguard and friend of many "White House babies," recalled to-day the old legend:

"The child that is born on the Sabbath day is bonnie and blithe and good and gay."

The White House telegraph room was a busy place to-day. The joy of a nation at this happy event was shown in the flood of congratulatory telegrams that arrived.

A toy Princeton tiger for the Sayre baby was presented to President Wilson to-day by a committee from the Princeton Alumni Association of Maryland, who called to ask the President to attend their annual dinner.

"The baby's father is a Williams College man," said the President, "and therefore I don't know whether I should accept a Princeton tiger for him."

"But his mother came from Princeton," replied Edgar Allan Poe, the Attorney General of Maryland, who headed the delegation. "The boy must be sent to Princeton for the sake of his mother and grandfather."

TRIPLE INQUIRY IN ROGERS CASE, SAYS PROSECUTOR

Dr. Hague Recalled as Grand Jury Resumes Investigation Into Double Tragedy.

MRS. WALTERS BETTER.

Attorney Asks Coroner to Refrain From Calling Her as Inquest Witness.

That Mrs. Ida Sniffen Walters, who poisoned her two babies and tried to kill herself when she saw that the father of the children, Loryls Elton Rogers, could not wed her, is not the only person under investigation in the proceeding now on before the Bronx County Grand Jury, was made known to-day by District Attorney Martin. It is not expected that the Grand Jury will finish with this case before the end of the week.

"I am proceeding very carefully and thoroughly," said Mr. Martin, "along three lines. One of the lines has to do with Mrs. Walters and her action in killing her children. What the other lines are I cannot reveal now, but they lead in a different direction from that which concerns Mrs. Walters."

Through testimony to be gathered to-day and to-morrow Mr. Martin will learn whether or not he needs the evidence of Mrs. Caroline Giddings Rogers, the second and legal wife of Loryls Elton Rogers. Mrs. Rogers is in New Jersey in seclusion. Mr. Martin knows where she is. If he wants to question her he can reach her through her counsel, Emory Buckner. She may be called Wednesday.

Dr. William Grand Hague was recalled before the Grand Jury at the beginning of the investigation to-day. Dr. Albert E. Woods, who was called in by Dr. Hague after the two babies were poisoned, was also scheduled for examination during to-day's session.

Abraham Levy has asked the District Attorney and the Bronx Coroner to refrain from having his client, Mrs. Walters, present at the inquest.

"There is no legal necessity for the accused to appear at the inquest," said Mr. Levy. "Her presence would simply mean that she was on exhibition to the curious."

Rogers did not sleep in his quarters in the hospital last night, but appeared there early to-day. He refused to discuss a sermon preached last night by Dr. George W. Grin-toj, pastor of the Fordham Methodist Church, in which men of the Rogers type were denounced as menaces to society.

Dr. Hague did not complete his testimony before the Grand Jury to-day. The doctor has said for publication that if he told all he knew he could establish to the satisfaction of any jury that Mrs. Walters should be held guiltless of homicidal intent when she fed poison to her children.

An effort was made to-day to get him to tell his story in full, but he said he would have to have the permission of Mr. Levy and Mrs. Walters. He was excused until Wednesday, when the Grand Jury will take up the case again.

Coroner Healey is not disposed to grant Mr. Levy's request that Mrs. Walters be excused from attending the inquest. The Coroner takes the ground that the course followed in all homicide cases should apply in this case.

Coroner's Physician John Riegelman was ordered this afternoon to visit Mrs. Walters in the hospital, examine her and the nurse's charts and report on her condition. If he finds that she has so far recovered that she can be removed from the hospital without danger she will be transferred to the county jail.

Among the witnesses examined was a reporter who has given details of occurrences in the Grand Jury room last week. The young man was excused after stating that he did not get his information from the District Attorney or any member of his staff or from any member of the Grand Jury.

FLOODS IN BELGIUM DRIVE ALLIED TROOPS FROM THEIR TRENCHES

French Report Repulse of the Invaders West of Soissons—Berlin Disputes Claims of Success Made by Paris War Office.

THANN IS BOMBARDED BY THE BIG GERMAN GUNS

PARIS, Jan. 18.—Violent bombardments by the German artillery are reported to-day as a wind and rain storm raged in Belgium and as a great fall of snow covered the Vosges and Alsace. The French War Office says the rain in Belgium was particularly severe. Thann, in Alsace, was bombarded during the snow storm, but the French report declares little damage was done.

The wind and rain storm that swept over the northern battlefield destroyed entire lines of trenches. The troops had to withdraw from them to avoid being drowned.

According to the French War Office report to-day two German assaults in force near Autrecht, northeast of Vic-sur-Aisne, have been repulsed with heavy loss to the Germans. The fighting there continues, with the Germans still trying to gain a foothold on the French positions.

The French are reported to be pushing their offensive in the Le Pretre woods northwest of Pont-a-Mousson and to have captured several of the German outlying positions here.

Some of the claims made in the French report are contradicted by to-day's announcement from Berlin. The Germans report a distinct success during the fighting of the last seventy-two hours around La Boisselle, northeast of Albert, an important railroad centre south of Arras. The Germans assert that the French were driven from their trenches in a bayonet charge.

The report from Paris of a success on hill 263 in the Argonne is met by the Berlin claim that several French trenches were captured there. It is declared the French detachments were almost annihilated.

Although Paris reports the capture of German positions in the forest northwest of Pont-a-Mousson, Berlin says the French reached the German trenches, but that the fighting is still in progress.

Vic-sur-Aisne, near which town the French report the repulse of two German attacks, is on the Aisne River, about ten miles west of Soissons.

Following is the text of the report given out to-day by the War Office in Paris:

"From the sea to the Oise there was yesterday a violent storm, particularly in Belgium. The day saw artillery fighting at certain points.

"Near Autrecht, to the northeast of Vic-sur-Aisne, two German attacks were repulsed. In the sectors of Soissons and of Rheims there was no change.

"In the region of Perthes there was very efficient marksmanship on the part of our artillery on the positions of the enemy.

"In Argonne the German attack on Hill 263, to the west of Boureuilles, brought no result. We took possession of several German field works to the northwest of Pont-a-Mousson, in the only part of the forest of Le Pretre which is still in the hands of the enemy. We here later repulsed a counter attack and maintained all our gains.

"In the Vosges there has been a heavy fall of snow. The enemy bombarded Thann, but without inflicting serious damage."

Two Repulses of the French Reported by Berlin War Office

BERLIN (by wireless to London, Jan. 18, Associated Press).—The German War Office to-day gave out an official announcement as follows:

"In the neighborhood of Neuport yesterday there were artillery duels. British mines have been washed ashore at several places on the coast.

"At La Boisselle, northeast of Albert, our troops, who again had established themselves in the churchyard at La Boisselle and in the hamlet to the southwest, attacked the French with the bayonet and drove them from their positions. We took three officers and one hundred men.

"Several French trenches have been captured in the Argonne