

JURY ACTS ON WATER.

REPORT THAT DALTON AND BIRDSALL HAVE BEEN CALLED.

MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION GIVES OUT LETTERS ABOUT INVESTIGATING DEPARTMENT RECORDS.

The Grand Jury, it was reported yesterday, has sent notices to Commissioner Dalton and Chief Engineer Birdsall, of the Department of Water Supply, to appear as witnesses on Monday.

Commissioner Dalton declined yesterday to talk about the Grand Jury summons, but Mr. Birdsall said: "I have had so much experience with Grand Jurors that I have stopped trying to guess what they may want to know."

William F. King, president of the Merchants' Association, yesterday named the committee he was authorized to appoint for the examination of the reported discrepancies in the reports of the Water Department.

The Merchants' Association yesterday gave out copies of letters which Commissioner Dalton recently wrote to the association in response to requests for facilities to obtain information.

I am fully cognizant of the fact that the quarterly and annual reports of the late Department of Public Works have not uniformly given such information as would enable your association by the aid of clerks or accountants outside of the office of this department to deduct and compile the information you desire.

In consequence of the incompleteness of the information in the quarterly and annual reports in this respect, it would be necessary to go through hundreds of volumes of the books of the Bureau of Water Registry to collect and tabulate some of the information called for, and such work could only be done outside of office hours and by the most experienced and competent clerks in the Department.

Mr. De Berard replied, thanking the Commissioner, and suggesting that it would be well to wait until after the impending election, as political intent might be wrongly imputed. The Commissioner wrote again on October 11, saying:

In reply I desire to say that the fact that we are here in an important election does in no manner interfere with what myself and my officers and clerks can do in the investigation which your association desires to make.

Mr. Dalton was not at his office when Mr. Teele presented the letter, but after the election the Commissioner wrote to Mr. King, in part:

As you do not specify what records or parts of records of the department you wish to obtain a general idea as to the system and method of keeping the records, rather than to go into a detailed examination of any particular record.

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and has a fishy taste, it is not detrimental to health.

REMINDEES OF RAMAPO.

It was announced yesterday that John R. Freeman's report to Controller Coler on the city's water supply had cost \$35,000. The report of Mr. Freeman was presented on March 24. It dealt fully with the sources of supply and with the waste of the distributing system.

Another reminder of the Ramapo contract which some of the members of the Board of Public Improvements tried to force upon the city was given by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday in handing down a decision on the suits brought against the Board of Public Improvements to restrain it from executing a Ramapo contract.

SENATOR PLATT A WITNESS.

ALL HIS TESTIMONY IN A LIBEL SUIT STRICKEN OUT AS SOON AS IT IS GIVEN.

Senator Platt was a witness in the Supreme Court yesterday in the suit brought by General Charles H. T. Collis against the Press Publishing Company ("The World") to recover \$250,000 for alleged libel.

General Collis was examined in his own behalf before Justice Truax and a jury yesterday afternoon, and denied the truthfulness of the published article. The defendant pleaded justification, and declared that the article in the paper was true.

Senator Platt was called to the stand after recess by David McClure, counsel for General Collis. He was asked:

"What is your name?" "Thomas C. Platt." "What is your business?" "I am in the express business." "You are a United States Senator?" "I am."

Mr. De Berard replied, thanking the Commissioner, and suggesting that it would be well to wait until after the impending election, as political intent might be wrongly imputed.

FLOUR TRUST WINS ANOTHER CASE.

TEMPORARY INJUNCTION OBTAINED BY MRS. LOCKE DISSOLVED.

In accordance with the decision in the case of Mrs. Ora M. Jewell, who tried to recover her stock in the Hecker-Jones-Jewell Flour Milling Company from the trustees of the United States Flour Milling Company, known as the Flour Trust, Justice Smith, in the Supreme Court, in the Appellate Division yesterday dissolved the temporary injunction restraining the trustees of the trust from disposing of the stock of Mrs. Caroline T. Locke.

COACHMAN DIES FROM APOPLEXY.

While sitting on the seat of his coach yesterday James O'Connor, forty years old, of No. 649 Deans-st., Brooklyn, coachman for Dr. John E. Richardson, died from apoplexy in the doctor's home and fell to the pavement. He was carried into the house, and died five minutes later.

FIREMEN WIN THEIR CASE.

A decision in favor of claims presented by several hundred firemen, who were members of the former Fire Department of the city of Brooklyn, was handed down yesterday in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in test case to recover a balance of salary alleged to be due on January 1, 1900. Just before consolidation the Brooklyn Board of Estimate made some reduction in the salaries of the various grades of firemen and policemen. The New York City authorities did not recognize this action, and both policemen and firemen had to resort to the courts.

WEBB NOT TO BE REINSTATED.

A decision was handed down yesterday by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the Second Department, affirming the lower court in its refusal to grant a preliminary writ of mandamus on the application of James W. Webb, former county detective of District Attorney Clarke's office, to compel his reinstatement.

AIDS HER TO BRING SUIT FOR DIVORCE.

A counsel fee has been granted by Justice Smith, of the Supreme Court, Brooklyn, to Mrs. Mary A. Laird, to enable her to bring to trial her suit for a limited divorce from her husband, William A. Laird, who resides at No. 100 West 10th-st., Brooklyn, a son of Samuel T. Laird, a compiler of statistics.

REWARD FOR AN OLD M'KANE MAN.

Deputy Commissioner Quinn of the Department of Street Cleaning has dismissed Patrick H. Freeman, a friend of Coffey, who has had the contract for several years for the removal of ashes and other refuse from the Thirtieth and Thirty-first wards of Brooklyn, and John W. Murphy, a former McKane man, has been substituted in his place.

WOMAN DIES IN AGONY.

ENVELOPED IN FLAMES, SHE TRIES TO REACH CREEK, BUT STICKS IN MUD—MEN OFFER NO AID.

Mrs. Emma Braun, seventy years old, was burned to death yesterday afternoon while picking clinders on an ash dump in Johnson-ave., just beyond Morgan-ave., Brooklyn. The woman's cries were heard by some men, and they saw her enveloped in flames. She rolled on the ground in trying to put out the blazing garments. Falling in this, she got upon her feet and ran to the Newtown Creek. In attempting to get into the water she sank into the mud bank and then retraced her steps. She fell on the bank of the creek, where she turned to death.

CITY WILL NOT STOP PUMPING.

REVIVAL OF PROJECT TO GET WATER TEMPORARILY FROM SMALL COMPANIES.

In spite of the Forbell decision, which gives damages against the city for the water which is taken from the land surrounding the Spring Creek pumping station of the Brooklyn water supply, that station will not be shut down for the present. Deputy Water Commissioner Moffett said yesterday that he did not think the Forbell decision would necessarily compel the shutting down of water stations along the watershed. Mr. Moffett will have a conference with Commissioner Dalton and the Chief Engineer in Manhattan to-day.

Borough President Edward M. Grout yesterday received a communication from a number of real estate men in which they demanded that the authorities immediately consider the advisability of securing more water by purchasing it from private companies in or near Brooklyn. They declare that the situation is so serious that tenants are threatened to leave their houses and apartments.

Something must be done to prevent the depopulation of Brooklyn which will soon follow the present condition of the water service. Not only are the financial interests of the owners of property and mortgages upon property affected by this situation, but the health of the community must show the result of empty traps, through which sewer gas will enter our dwellings.

FOUR ALLEGED BURGLARS CAUGHT.

BROOKLYN POLICE MOVED TO ACTIVITY BY THE CRUSADE AGAINST VICE.

It may be that the stirring up which the Police Department has received recently had something to do with the fact that the Brooklyn police captured four alleged burglars yesterday.

The first man to get into the toils of the police was C. H. Langer, fifty-two years old, who was arrested after an attempt to force an entrance into the rectory of the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, No. 815 Putnam-ave.

In the Gates-ave. court the prisoner said that he came from London in October to get a patent on a brass duplex comb. "It is my first crime," said the prisoner, "I can give good references." Magistrate Worth adjourned the case until December 5.

Three men drove a wagon up to the shoe store of Gustav Schrieber, No. 466 Graham-ave., yesterday morning at 3:30 o'clock. Two of them then attempted to force an entrance. Patrolman Worden watched them working. Suddenly there was a cry of "Police" from a resident of the neighborhood. The men scurried to the wagon and started to drive off. Patrolman Worden halted them with his pistol and marched them to the station house.

HURLED TO DEATH BY A TRAIN.

Freeport, Long Island, Nov. 23.—Miss Augusta Boyd, a young colored woman, was struck and killed by the Patchogue express, eastbound, tonight. Her body was hurled through the air and hit the side of the station with so much force that the weatherboards were broken.

BURGLARY INSURANCE.

There has been a marked increase in the number of burglaries during the past few months. The large cities seem to be especially singled out for these depredations, and individual losses in several cases have been very heavy. The only method of providing against loss is through carrying Burglary Insurance in some responsible company.

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