

FISCHER-HANSEN TRIAL

OLD CHARGES RETOLD. Jury Trying the Lawyer for Bribery Hears of Extortion Accusation.

Chief Justice Hendon's trial for bribery began in earnest yesterday before Justice Dowling, in the Criminal Branch of the Supreme Court, when the jury was completed. As on the preceding day, District Attorney Jerome was careful to ascertain that the testimony selected would give due weight to the circumstantial evidence, and that the testimony of a witness alleged to be a character.

Assistant District Attorney Smyth occupied most of the afternoon session in an address to the jury, and at its conclusion District Attorney Jerome placed in evidence the testimony of the present trial of Fischer-Hansen, out of which the present charges grew. The prisoner was tried and acquitted last summer on a charge of extortion. He is now charged with bribing Antonio Macaluso, the principal witness at the previous trial, who is now in Italy. The absence of Macaluso, it is alleged, accounts for the evidence introduced at the prosecution to rely largely on circumstantial evidence.

The address of Mr. Smyth, which consisted chiefly of a retelling of the story of the old extortion trial, was punctuated by objections from Stephen Baldwin, counsel for the defense, who was unwilling to have the testimony of the previous trial placed on the record. In spite of his objections Mr. Smyth succeeded in getting most of the story in. The Assistant District Attorney said, in part:

This defendant stands here as a common prisoner, to be judged just as vigorously as the poorest man. It is my duty and that of my profession, nor do we intend to remit because of that fact. Some features of an unpleasant character will be brought out which are not to be regarded as references will be made to them. You must not weigh that against the evidence of the trial, relating to the bribery of witnesses. This defendant is not to be given a bribe to influence a witness.

Mr. Smyth, in referring to the extortion case, promised that only such references should be made as would tend to show that Macaluso had testified contrary to the facts, in pursuance of the alleged agreement under which he testified. He declared that he would show that Macaluso came to the District Attorney's office voluntarily and confessed his entire connection with the alleged extortion. He also promised to show that Macaluso had received \$500 as partial payment of \$3,000 promised him for repudiating his confession and testifying at the extortion trial so as to favor the defendant.

Alexander Michelson, partner of Fischer-Hansen, was again in court yesterday. He is named in the joint indictment under which his partner is being tried, but is not on \$100,000 bail, having availed himself of the privilege of a separate trial. An extraordinary number of lawyers were in court as spectators.

TALKS ON CHILD LABOR.

Conditions Discussed at United Charities Organization Conference.

The special subject of the conference under the auspices of the United Charities Organization yesterday morning was "Recent Efforts to Combat Child Labor." Miss Kate Bond, chairman of the conference, presided. The speakers were Professor Samuel McCune Lindsay, Owen B. Lovvory, general secretary of the National Child Labor Committee; George A. Hall, secretary of the New York Child Labor Committee; Mrs. Anna-Gartia Spencer and Mrs. Florence Kelley, secretary of the National Consumers' League.

Professor Lindsay, who is director of the School of Philanthropy, said that if slavery was the greatest maladjustment in the social and economic history of this country up to a generation ago, "we may, with equal truthfulness, say to-day that child labor is the greatest present maladjustment in our social and industrial life." He said the object of the National Child Labor Committee was to act as a clearing house for information on the child labor problem, and that its policy was not to interfere for or against legislation in the various states except on the invitation of residents or organizations of the individual states. "The committee," he said, "was engaged in legislative campaigns of importance in fifteen states."

Hall said the scholarships of the New York Child Labor Committee were established in 1905 to find out how much ground existed for the excuse of poverty as a justification of child labor. Where it has been found that the cutting off through the law's enforcement of a child's contribution to the family income might work hardships, the committee has granted scholarships—a weekly pension of \$1 to \$3—on condition that the children regularly attend school. Last year the committee found that only eighty-four children needed scholarships.

Mrs. Lovvory devoted her talk to the importance of the children's bureau bill, now pending in Congress, and the urgency of having a vote on the bill before the present Congress adjourns. By a rising vote the conference decided to send telegrams approving the bill to Speaker Cannon and Vice-President Fairbanks, and urging that the bill be allowed to go to a vote.

JEFFERSON PARKWAY ABOVE PARK.

Aldermen Vote to Change the Name of a Part of Seventh Avenue.

By a vote of 47 to 3 the aldermen decided yesterday to change the name of Seventh avenue north of 16th street to Jefferson Parkway. The resolution was opposed by Aldermen B. W. B. Brown, the Republican leader, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Schless. Alderman "Little Tim" Sullivan favored it. "Mr. Schless," "I understand it, only to the opinion of the members of the Women's Democratic Club. I think the retail grocers' butchers' and teamsters' organizations, if informed, would have something to say about it. If the resolution passes, I think some public spirited citizen will next go to the Legislature and have the avenue placed under the jurisdiction of the Park Department, which would work havoc with the traffic."

MUST SURRENDER BARTERED CHILD.

Uncle Claims Little Girl for Whom Couple Paid \$50.

Justice Greenbaum, in the Supreme Court, handed down his decision yesterday, involving the banker of a child named Hannah Blum for a consideration of \$50, and ordered that the child be placed in charge of Isaac Frank, her uncle. The child was given into the hands of Mrs. Jennie Cohen, at No. 63 East 96th street, in July, 1906, by her parents, with the understanding that \$2 a week should be paid. In 1907 the parents went to San Francisco. In 1908 Mrs. Cohen ascertained that there were arrears in board amounting to \$50.

Mrs. Cohen tried to dispose of the child to some charitable organization, but was unable to do so. She finally accepted an offer of \$50 from Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Duell, of No. 345 25th street, Brooklyn, and the child went into the custody of the Duells.

A short time afterward, according to Justice Greenbaum, the child's parents, he said, appeared to be in extreme poverty and absent from the city. In view of the child's willingness and ability to give the child a good home and surrender her to the parents whenever they desired to care for her, Justice Greenbaum decided to grant the habeas corpus asked for.

The transaction of the delivery of the child Justice Greenbaum said, "substantially consisted of a barter of an infant." "But there seems no doubt," he added, "that Mr. and Mrs. Duell are thoroughly reputable and worthy persons, and that they were moved by the sole desire to adopt the child as their own."

A GEORGE WASHINGTON PICTURE. Handicrafts photographer of the famous Stuart portrait of George Washington, yesterday in the Sunday Tribune. Also opening chapters of Louis Tracy's new story, "The Silent Barter."

MORE GRAFT IN SNOW

CITY CLUB TO EDWARDS. Charges Overrating of Carts—Favors Contract System.

The City Club in a statement sent to Commissioner Edwards last night says that the snow removal frauds recently unearthed were not the only ones perpetrated against the city. The charge is made that the carrying capacity of carts was greatly overrated, and that the investigation indicated that "there has been a systematic and largely successful effort on the part of certain of the Manhattan contractors to secure tickets graded higher than the measurement of their carts allowed, and that much of this overrating has gone through unchallenged at the snow office."

The statement finds fault with the checking system employed after the last snowfall, and says that contractors did not perform their work properly in that they left the streets too rough. It is suggested that every effort should be made to enforce the contract system, "in preference to the city employing men and carts."

That Commissioner Edwards has met unusual difficulties in the statement admits, speaks of his work in presenting the recently discovered frauds, and urges that he use more drastic measures in other directions. The City Club promises that more representations on the same subject will be sent to the Department of Street Cleaning.

The statement is signed by George McAneny, president of the City Club, and Joseph M. Price, secretary, and a committee on street cleaning. In part it follows:

The City Club's investigation of snow-removal methods reveals a situation far more serious than has yet been shown. To remove the 4.9 inches that fell in the double storm of January 12—the first for the season—the snow office issued 1,200 tickets for the city \$36,345, or \$30.28 an inch. The appropriation of \$200,000 made by the Board of Estimate at Commissioner Edwards's request will go "on account" only. The entire snowfall of last winter, amounting to 32 inches, cost \$30,280, or \$1.20 an inch. Under the "area" system of the winter before, for a total fall of 52 inches the cost was \$2,470,410, or \$47.50 an inch. The latter figures, however, are of no use for comparison. They represent the top of the extravagance that threw this system into discredit and to an end.

The true comparison lies between the first two tickets in presenting the recently discovered frauds, and urges that he use more drastic measures in other directions. The City Club promises that more representations on the same subject will be sent to the Department of Street Cleaning.

The fact that losses have occurred through the smuggling in of load tickets for loads never carried already been shown. The City Club, through its committee on streets, has looked more particularly into the matter of the accuracy of the punchings of the tickets for the loads that have been carried. The results indicate that there has been a systematic and largely successful effort on the part of certain of the Manhattan contractors to secure tickets graded higher than the measurement of their carts allowed, and that much of this overrating has gone through unchallenged at the snow office.

The total cost of the Manhattan work alone on the first storm was \$275,000, of which \$119,000 went for teams and laborers hired directly by the department and \$156,000 by the contractors. The club estimates roughly that \$60,000 at least of the latter amount has been allowed on overrated carts. It urges both upon the department and the Controller that no bills be paid until every effort has been made to verify them.

The force of the year contract, except in the particular that the maximum figures in the grading of carts are too far apart, is all that could be desired. It was drawn upon the theory that substantially all of the work would be done by the contractors, and the interests of the city, as against the contractor, are protected at every point. The regulation of the method of payment is quite perfect. Payments are to be made in each of the three cubic yards of the actual waterline measurement of each cart or other vehicle employed.

To provide a convenient method for the payment of the bills, the club on November 15, 1908, proposed, by letters "A" indicating a measurement of not less than 2 1/2 cubic yards, "B" at least 3 or less than 4, "C" at least 4 or less than 5, "D" at least 5 or less than 6, and "E" 6 yards or more. The club on November 15, 1908, proposed, by letters "A" indicating a measurement of not less than 2 1/2 cubic yards, "B" at least 3 or less than 4, "C" at least 4 or less than 5, "D" at least 5 or less than 6, and "E" 6 yards or more. The club on November 15, 1908, proposed, by letters "A" indicating a measurement of not less than 2 1/2 cubic yards, "B" at least 3 or less than 4, "C" at least 4 or less than 5, "D" at least 5 or less than 6, and "E" 6 yards or more.

It was expected that of these signs found upon the carts were not of standard form, frequently lacking one or several of the details required to be shown to the contractors. In a large proportion of cases, were permitted to fill in and smudge themselves, thus making the signs unrecognizable. In many other cases the signs were missing altogether, and (4) that overrating has been almost systematic.

The club's inspectors carried tapes and made their own measurements. Specimen figures from among those reported to the club will suffice to show how the overrating has proceeded:

Table with columns: Cart number, Marked, Actual measure, Correct rating. Rows include EAST 26TH STREET DUMP—JANUARY 15 and JAY STREET DUMP—JANUARY 15.

Table with columns: Cart number, Marked, Actual measure, Correct rating. Rows include CANAL STREET DUMP—JANUARY 15.

In the second storm, that of January 30, the evidence of fraud or of fraudulent intent among the gangs visited was quite as strong as on the first, for instance, these cases on the upper West Side:

Table with columns: Cart number, Marked, Actual measure, Correct rating. Rows include EAST 26TH STREET DUMP—JANUARY 15.

The department states that its leading and dumping foremen have had instructions to punch only for actual capacity, no matter how the marks might read. Some attempt should have been made to follow these instructions, as the reports to the club show. The ordinary practice, however, seems to have been to punch according to the cart.

Some drivers have invariably claimed the ratings they carried—sometimes violently—and, so far as the letter of the contract runs, were entitled to them. The place for correction is in the registry of cart numbers and in the actual affixing of the signs. At both these points the system of the department seems to have failed.

The club finds no system whatever for checking the registered numbers of carts against the description of carts actually employed, nor for checking the returns of foremen against the registered numbers. It is satisfied from the evidence it has received that the measuring system is, to say the least, seriously inaccurate, and that just how much the city has been overcharged under this head can be determined only by official investigation.

Other elements that have entered into the present high rate of cost, in the club's belief, also demand prompt attention. In some districts where the first storm the contractors left their work so roughly finished that the department had to follow them, cleaning up what they had left. The contractors, under their agreement, are bound to make good every loss or net loss proceeding from their defaults. They have been under bonds for \$50,000 a district—\$100,000 in all in Manhattan and The Bronx—for the city's protection. The City Club believes that all claims of the city arising from the present situation should be strictly enforced.

The club believes that in the handling of future storms every effort should be made to enforce the contract system. If the length of time required by preliminaries were not prohibitive at this stage of the winter, it would propose that new contracts be let in each district in which the present contractor has failed. It does propose that such of the contractors as remain qualified be given a chance to continue under a proper measuring system; that both measuring and marking in future be done by the department alone, and that the records in the snow office be so kept that they will show the daily earnings of each cart by its distinctive number.

The City Club expressed its belief that under a system so developed the contract system could be made to work well—as well, for instance, as it worked last year. It believes that Commissioner Edwards has labored hard to obtain better results as it is. He inherited a set of contractors, the statement says, whose ability to handle their work had not been tested.

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BANKER'S TRIAL BEGINS.

Jury Locked Up in Pittsburg Graft Case.

Pittsburg, Feb. 16.—A. A. Vilsack, former cashier of the German National Bank, was the principal witness to-day in the trial in the Criminal Court of W. W. Ramsey, former president of the same institution, charged with bribing Councilman John F. Klein, in connection with securing municipal deposits for his bank.

Mr. Vilsack, who is under indictment on a similar charge, testified to arranging a meeting between Klein and Ramsey, at which it was agreed by Ramsey that the bank should pay Klein \$15,000 to secure action by Councilmen making it a city depository for four years. Witness said Ramsey told him to get the money out of the reserve vault; that he did so and placed it on a table; that the witness and Ramsey went out, and that when they returned Klein and the money were gone.

National Bank Examiner Harrison Nesbitt testified to discovering the transaction on the books, to confronting the bank officials with it and their admission that the money had been paid to Klein to make their bank a city depository.

The trial was begun this morning and a jury was quickly obtained. Owing to the arrest of two men and the issuing of warrants for twelve others on charges of attempted jury fixing, it was decided to keep the jury in the Ramsey case in confinement during the trial. Good meals and sleeping quarters will be provided. The trials of Vilsack, Klein and other Councilmen involved in the alleged bribery will follow Ramsey's trial.

Advertisement for The Wanamaker Galleries. Store Opens at 8:15 and Closes at 6 P. M. Library FURNITURE. Luxurious Pieces, for One's Hours of Ease, At Tempting February Price-Reductions.

After wife and children, there is no other one thing that makes up so much of the enjoyment of the home, as the EASY CHAIR, where a man sits down after dinner to read a paper, or book—perhaps smoke his cigar—and get rest and relaxation after the day's work.

Many a house, expensively furnished all over, is far from home-like; while the best-loved homes in the world are those that have one room where every member of the family has a comfortable chair, and a davenport is provided for a restful nap.

Homes not fully provided, may be splendidly furnished from these February Sale stocks, at handsome reductions from regular values. Below is described furniture for the Library or Den, Divans, comfortable Chairs in suites and odd pieces upholstered in soft fabrics, and in American and English moroccos. Library Tables, Stands, Bookcases in the different woods and styles to harmonize with the surroundings. There is wide variety of selection, to meet every individual idea of comfort:

\$385 Three-piece Library Suite, now \$325. The "Rushton" sofa, with straight square back, low arms, about 7 1/2 in. length, 32 in. in depth, extreme measurements; tufted seat with three soft pillows, each 22 in. square. There are two arm chairs to match, each with a loose pillow, all upholstered in fine quality figured tpestry.

\$170 Three-piece Library Suite, now \$115. A tufted, arm chair and side chair, with high tufted over-stuffed back, round curved mahogany arms and shaped legs, nicely upholstered in green silk velvet. The settee is 64 in. long; altogether an attractive and comfortable suite.

Others of fabric-upholstered suites range in price from a suite of two pieces at \$72, regularly \$80, to a suite of four pieces at \$747, regularly \$830. \$390 Two-piece Suite in Leather, now \$351. These pieces are of the finest construction, upholstered in soft, English Morocco, with loose seat cushions and carved mahogany legs. A very attractive as well as a most comfortable Library suite.

\$190 Three-piece Suite in Leather, now \$125. These are modern pieces, consisting of a settee, arm and side chair, with high tufted backs and mahogany frames, are well-made and comfortable, upholstered in black American leather.

Other suites of two, three and five pieces range in price from a suite of three pieces at \$351, regularly \$385, to a two-piece suite at \$747, regularly \$830. \$300 English Club Sofa, now \$265. This is a luxurious sofa of the finest possible construction, made by Birch of London. It has tufted seat, back and arms, plaited and buttoned front, upholstered in best English Morocco. It measures 6 ft. extreme and 58 in. between the inside arms.

\$65 Easy Arm Chair, now \$45. This is a high backed easy arm chair, with broad moulded solid mahogany frame and claw feet, polish finish, upholstered with best American leather.

\$30 Upholstered Rocker, now \$23. This rocker has a high back, large arms, wing sides, claw feet, upholstered with red velvet. It is made of birch finished imitation mahogany and is of good size and comfortable.

\$40 Turkish Rocker, now \$30. This a large, comfortable, Turkish easy chair, upholstered in green velvet. There are other bookcases in mahogany, ranging in price from one at \$20, regularly \$25, to one at \$300, regularly \$335, to one at \$145, regularly \$165.

\$20 Library Table, now \$15. In golden oak, nicely quarter marked, with two drawers, braced handles, one under shelf. 44 in. long x 28 in. wide, neat in design, well-made and finished.

\$75.25 Library Table, now \$65. The size of this golden oak library table is 34 in. wide x 50 in. long, double pedestal, each having four drawers on each side of the table. There is also a centre drawer on each side of the table, making a total of thirteen drawers. It is handsomely quarter marked, well-made and finished.

There are other oak tables for the library, ranging in price from one at \$8.25, regularly \$9.25, to one at \$65, regularly \$75.25.

\$30 Library Table, now \$20. A neat little table in solid mahogany, supported by four columns, 3 in. in diameter, on a colonial base. It has one drawer and one under shelf.

\$120 Library Table, now \$100. Mahogany table with inlaid lines after the style of Sheraton; it has five drawers, all mahogany lined. Square tapered legs of the best construction and finish. Its size is 30 x 52 in.

There are other mahogany tables for the library, ranging in price from one at \$15, regularly \$25, to one at \$140, regularly \$155.

Wanamaker - Women's Store (Old Stewart Building). Store Opens at 8:15 and Closes at 6 P. M.

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