

Cannon, with all his arbitrary power in Congress, is a sucking babe compared with Speaker Wadsworth as chairman of the Rules Committee.

Chairman Hooker to-night said that he never had favored the bill, though he went to the Attorney General's office with Conger to confer with Judge Fisher regarding the amending of the highway law in that particular.

Hooker and Allds were colleagues on the commission which revised the highway laws.

NIXON NAMED.

The mention of Speaker Nixon's name proved the climax of the day's sensational events. That it would be brought out was no news to those who have followed this case closely, but while it has been in the gossip of the hotel corridors and the Capitol lobbies it had been kept from the public.

Senator Conger had been testifying about the \$4,000 package which, he said, was given to Jean Burnett in his presence. He mentioned Burnett's name yesterday, but did not say on which envelope it was written.

Breaking off abruptly in this line of examination just five minutes before adjournment time, Mr. Carr asked: "What was the name on the other \$1,000 envelope?"

"I refuse to answer," replied Conger, settling back stubbornly in his chair. He maintained vigorously that this was no part of the Allds-Conger case and he should not be compelled to testify regarding it.

"How long must we submit to this mockery, this theatrical refusal to tell these names which he has told all around this very place?" demanded Martin W. Littleton, loudly. "Then we have counsel advise him, in the mockery of a great trial."

"This is no mockery," burst in Mr. Van Hoesen, of Senator Conger's legal staff. "This is a serious matter and not a subject for theatricals."

"Why, it's in the newspapers and corridors and everybody must have this information except this committee," declared Littleton, as Judge Van Wyck and Mr. Van Hoesen advised Senator Conger to answer in accordance with Senator Davis's ruling. Mr. Littleton jeered at them:

"Ten, twenty and thirty admission fee."

NIXON'S NAME ON ENVELOPE.

Again the question was put to Senator Conger and reluctantly he answered. "Fred Nixon was the full name there, or simply 'Nixon,'" asked Mr. Carr.

"Nixon, I think," answered Conger.

"And you had received information in regard to that from somebody?"

"Yes, sir."

"Whatever information you had with regard to that was given to you by somebody else?" asked Mr. Carr.

"You mean as to the amount being paid to him?"

"Yes, sir."

"And upon that information you gave the directions to Moe to put the thousand dollars in that envelope?"

"Yes, sir."

"And upon that information you took Moe up to the Speaker's room, did you?"

"Yes, sir."

"And did you introduce him to the Speaker?"

"I did."

"And did you go inside of the room for the purpose?"

"I did."

"It was inside of the room where you introduced Moe to him?"

"Yes, sir."

"And then you went out, and the door was closed?"

"Yes, sir."

"And, so far as you know, there was no delivery of any package to him?"

"I have no personal knowledge of it."

While the Senate Chamber was still buzzing with the excitement of this sensational revelation an adjournment was taken.

NIXON'S PERSONALITY.

Oldtime politicians to-night are staggered at the extent to which this inquiry has revealed things only half hinted at and whispered under breath in previous years. They are almost aghast at this blow at Fred Nixon, even though he has been dead now for five years.

Nixon was the type of man who brooked no opposition, and the brutal, absolute fashion in which he dominated the Assembly is a tradition here still. He called himself a farmer. He was in reality a politician of the most practical sort, even for Chautauque County, where they grow hard headed sons. He was born in Westfield, where he lived all his life. Leaving Hamilton College in 1881, he entered politics immediately, and three years thereafter was elected village trustee.

Then he got into the "county game" as Supervisor, and in 1887 first came to Albany. With only a few years interval he served as Assemblyman from the 2nd District of Chautauque County from that time until his death, in 1905.

Nixon was a huge, bull necked, big voiced individual. He "learned the ropes" easily, and climbed the political ladder until he became chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, a position of great power. He was elected Speaker in 1899, and re-elected regularly thereafter. He ruled that Assembly like a czar, but his subjects combined for self-preservation, and finally, according to political gossip, a community of interest arrangement was worked out which transferred the domination of the Assembly to a syndicate, of which Nixon himself was head and front.

Jean Burnett was one of that syndicate, and was considered by many to be Nixon's personal representative on the floor, though he never was the majority leader. Nixon was a poor man when he came to Albany. It is said that his

estate was found to amount to nearly \$1,000,000.

BRIDGE COMPANIES BALK.

On another occasion to-day Senator Conger refused to answer questions and had to be forced to give his testimony. That was when the Allds lawyers were endeavoring to find out about the corruption funds raised by the bridge companies in other years.

The witness had testified that he had been told about the raising of a fund in 1902 which was used in connection with legislation. He was told of it, he said, by Mr. Landon, manager of the Grotton Bridge Company, which served as the clearing house for the contributions of other bridge companies. But he refused to tell what those companies were until he had tied up the Senate in a long legal wrangle. He said definitely that he did not refuse to testify because it would not incriminate him.

On the advice of his lawyers he finally gave the names of the companies which raised a fund of \$5,000, all through the day's testimony Senator Conger laid great emphasis on the statement that the bridge companies had been blackmailed. Particularly was this true when he told of a meeting in the Yates Hotel, Syracuse.

"There was a demand by people here that a fund of \$10,000 be raised to protect certain legislation," said he. "There was a meeting there of the companies, and they decided they would not be blackmailed any more and would not pay it."

His account of his visit to Colonel George W. Dunn also was very interesting. He had been told about the reintroduction in 1902 of the Stevens bridge bill. He called on Colonel Dunn at Albany and had a talk with him. Subsequently he made a campaign contribution for himself and the bridge companies. The bill was killed. His conversation with Colonel Dunn was not repeated.

CONGRER UNSHAKEN.

Testimony Not Affected by Cross-Examination.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Albany, Feb. 17.—The continued cross-examination of Senator Conger to-day by counsel for Senator Allds, accused of demanding and accepting a bribe of \$1,000, did not shake the plaintiff's story materially. Nowhere was there any striking fact produced to discredit the story told by Mr. Conger and Hiram Moe, although an elaborate structure was built to show that they might have had a motive for accusing Senator Allds.

Lawyers who have followed the inquiry say that the Conger attorneys have corroborated by the production of books and papers and the testimony of minor witnesses. Two men have sworn that a sealed envelope containing \$1,000 in bills was handed to Senator Allds. Only in one way can this case be shaken, say some lawyers—by the production of a strong proof that that money was brought to Albany and given to somebody it was not given to Senator Allds.

Mr. Carr, of Senator Allds's counsel, continued Senator Conger's cross-examination. The latter again insisted that he had a talk with Mr. Burnett regarding amendments to the Stevens bill, and that he had a memorandum of the proposed amendments.

"Who put the amendments in the bill?"

"I don't know."

The witness was questioned about his conversation with Allds. He said nobody else was present. Conger was asked to repeat his conversation and for the third time since the investigation began the Senate heard that Allds remarked: "Ben, you think you fellows have that bill bottled up in that committee. Don't forget that the Rules Committee to which Allds belongs takes charge soon. I understand there's something in the bill which would get the American Bridge people up here."

Conger said to-day that he had first related this conversation eight or nine years ago at his home in Grotton to Mr. Landon, manager of the Grotton Bridge Company. He repeated it again, he said, in 1902 to Giles M. Studier, a Grotton lawyer, and about two or three years ago to L. J. Townley, also of Grotton.

"Who was holding that bill in the committee? (Internal Affairs) demanded Carr.

"I was urging my friends not to report the bill."

"And they didn't report it?"

"No, sir."

CALLS IT BLACKMAIL.

Conger was made to rehearse what he says transpired between his brother Frank, vice-president of the American Bridge Company, and Allds when the latter called at Senator Conger's apartments here to discuss terms.

"Did you make any objection to the payment of money for the purpose referred to?" inquired Carr.

"No, sir."

"You understood what bribery was?"

"Yes, sir."

"The conversation was upon the subject of bribery, wasn't it?"

"I considered it more blackmail than bribery," declared Conger, with the first show of resentment he had made during the morning.

Mr. Carr objected to this answer and the chairman refused to let it stand on the record; but Conger repeated it several times, whenever Allds's attorney brought him up to a definition of this transaction.

"Didn't you understand the giving, or promising to give, any pecuniary consideration for his (Allds's) action in the Legislature?"

"Yes."

"You understood Mr. Allds, as a member of the Legislature, had promised to receive a certain sum for his action on legislation, and you didn't consider it bribery?"

"I considered it blackmail," insisted the witness.

When Carr demanded a categorical answer Conger finally replied: "No, sir."

"I told my brother," said Conger, further along in the examination, "that I didn't want to have anything to do with the handling of the money because I was a legislator and it was to be paid to a legislator."

"You knew it was bribery?" asked Mr. Carr again.

"I considered it blackmail," said Senator Conger.

Conger's attorneys objected to the chairman's refusal to let this answer stand. Ex-Judge Van Wyck contended that to make a demand for money was blackmail, but to meet a demand by giving money was not bribery.

"Wasn't the money brought here for that purpose?" pursued Carr.

"Yes," admitted Conger.

Conger confirmed Hiram G. Moe's statement that the Senator had instructed Moe how to divide the \$5,000 sent by his brother Frank for the bridge company, and told him the names to write on the envelopes.

Mr. Carr made the witness describe in detail his alleged trip with Moe to the Capitol on April 23, 1901, to distribute the money.

"You knew for what purpose the money was given, didn't you?" he asked.

"I did," said Conger.

Conger said he did nothing with reference to bridge legislation in 1902. He acknowledged that he knew money was being raised in this connection in that year. Landon, manager of the Grotton Bridge Company, told him, he said.

Senator Conger said there was a fund sent to the Grotton Bridge Company by other companies.

"What companies?"

"I will not tell unless compelled to."

Advised by his attorneys to answer, Conger said that those companies were the United Construction Company, of Albany; the Penn Bridge Company, of Beaver Falls; the Rochester Bridge Company, of Canton; the Oswego Bridge Company, of Oswego; and the Grotton Bridge Company.

"What was the aggregate amount?" asked Carr.

"Five thousand dollars."

Conger said that this was handled, at least in part, by the fund which was collected in reference to legislation and that part of it was to be used to influence legislation.

He said that in 1905 he attended a meeting of the United Construction Company, the Rochester Bridge Company, the Penn bridge companies at Syracuse.

At that meeting he said he discussed "strike" bills affecting the interests of the bridge companies.

"A demand was made by certain people in Albany for a fund of \$10,000 to protect certain legislation."

"I don't know whether we would not be blackmailed and we wouldn't pay it."

NEW INQUIRY BEGUN.

Searching Record of Land Purchases by State.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Albany, Feb. 17.—Although interesting developments are promised as a result of the action of Governor Hughes in ordering an investigation into the affairs of the State Forest, Fish and Game Commission, discredited by the Governor formally beginning the examination of witnesses. The taking of testimony will probably not begin before at least a week or ten days. By that time it is expected the Conger-Allds bribery charges will be disposed of.

Roger C. Clark, the Governor's legal adviser, and H. Lee Austin, an experienced investigator formerly employed in the State Controller's office, who were appointed by the Governor to conduct the inquiry, were sworn in last night, and to-day they began a systematic examination of records bearing on land purchases. Their inquiry will be a thorough one and will go back to the beginning of the acquisition of forest lands by the state.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Watertown, N. Y., Feb. 17.—The records of the State Forest, Fish and Game Commission are on file and will speak for themselves, and they will bear the light of day," was what ex-Commissioner D. C. Middleton, of this city, said to-day when asked how he viewed the order of Governor Hughes for an investigation.

Mr. Middleton said that as he understood it, only the acts of the purchasing board are to be investigated. He said that a part of the time he was Commissioner he served on this board and he courted the fullest investigation.

"If there is a suspicion of wrongdoing the investigation should go to the bottom, and I stand ready to assist in every possible way," he concluded.

LOUIS J. BEDELL'S STATEMENT.

Louis J. Bedell, a member of the Assembly from Goshen in 1901, who was charged by the testimony of Senator Benn Conger with having suggested an amendment to the Malby bill, is still at the Hotel Gramatan, Bronx, till yesterday. He is suffering from a heavy cold. Mr. Bedell said he has been out of the hotel only one day in the last week. He said last night that he would not go to Albany until summoned as a witness, and that would probably not be until next week.

"I do not know anything about the bill except that I voted for it," he said. "Conger must have got me mixed up with somebody else. I deny absolutely that I ever received any money or do I know of anybody that did receive any money. Any suggestion of an agreement is false, and I am willing to go to Albany at any time."

NEW BILLS AT ALBANY.

Measure to Protect New York State Against Diseased Western Meats.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Albany, Feb. 17.—The tendency of Western stock raisers to resist any effort to bring this state was responsible for a bill introduced to-day by Assemblyman Lansing of Rensselaer, providing for the licensing and inspection of abattoirs and markets where the meat is sold, under the direction of the State Commissioner of Agriculture.

Mr. Lansing, who is a meat dealer himself, said it was the practice of Western stock raisers to kill cattle or hogs they believe to be diseased and ship them to New York State. This, he said, had come to his attention on several occasions. The reason for this, he believed, was the rigid inspection at the great Western meat centers, Chicago and Omaha. Mr. Lansing said that at present the state provides no protection to its citizens from diseased meat, the only inspection being that of the federal authorities.

In a bill introduced to-day by Assemblyman Tompkins it is provided that in any divorce proceedings, including records of divorce proceedings, including records of divorce proceedings, be filed unsealed and be at all times open to public inspection.

Assemblyman Beck introduced a bill empowering the Brooklyn Institute and several other Brooklyn educational institutions to receive and hold property, including any pawnbroker may charge. On loans not exceeding \$100, the rate is not to be more than 1 1/2 per cent a month, instead of 3 per cent for the first six months, and 1 per cent a month, instead of 2, for each succeeding month, and on loans exceeding \$100 the rate is to be per cent a month, instead of 2, for the first six months, and 1 1/2 per cent a month, instead of 1, for each succeeding month.

The case of Harry Thaw would be affected by the passage of a bill introduced to-day by Assemblyman J. S. Phillips, chairman of the Judiciary Committee. It provides that if Justice McKim, or any other juror shall not be issued in behalf of a person who "has been committed to or detained in a state hospital for insane criminals by virtue of the judicial determination of his insanity by a competent tribunal of civil or criminal jurisdiction and has been granted a writ, except under the conditions prescribed by Section 53A of the Insanity Law."

Assemblyman W. G. Miller, of Nassau, would withhold all public appropriations from any school district where the doctrines of any particular religious sect are taught in the public schools or where any book is used in the schools containing any of the doctrines of any sect. The Holy Scriptures, without note or comment, may be used.

TRANSFER TAX OPINIONS.

Albany, Feb. 17.—Attorney General O'Malley has advised State Controller Williams that the stock transfer tax law has no application to a transfer made prior to the time the law went into effect and evidenced on the books subsequent to that date.

The Attorney General also holds that a transfer of stock to voting trustees for a period of eighteen months, vesting them with the power of voting the stock for that period, is a transfer taxable under the provisions of the law.

EMPRESS DOWAGER IN CAPITAL.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 17.—The Empress Dowager, who has returned to Russia has been staying at the Anichkov Palace.

Petersburg, instead of at her palace at Gatchina, thirty miles away, where she has lived since the outbreak of the revolution. This is the first indication of the imperial plans to return to the capital.

WADSWORTH'S PLAN

MAY REVISE CHARTER

Assembly Will Also Pass a Direct Nominations Bill.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Albany, Feb. 17.—Speaking to-night at the annual dinner of the Barnes Albany County Republican organization, Speaker Wadsworth declared that the Republican majority in the Assembly, with himself at its head, would take the initiative in shaping the course of all important legislation at this session. He said he believed the Senate when it got through its present difficulties would follow the lead of the Assembly.

The speaker promised action on the direct nominations issue, but he was distinctly non-committal as to what that action would be. He thought the state supervision of telephone and telegraph companies would be brought about, but if the supervision is as limited and qualified as the speaker's description of it, it will not suit many of the Hughes men of the Legislature. Also he said the Assembly would do its part toward giving New York City a revised charter.

After speaking of the general criticism of the Republican party and the cause of recent disclosures, the speaker declared emphatically that no Republican had any reason to be other than the people's party.

"I believe the people will judge the party by what it has done in the past and by what it will do at this session of the Legislature," said he. "The Assembly, in control of a responsible Republican majority, intends to go ahead with its work and to bring to a successful and logical conclusion the reorganization of the method of making nominations for office. We already have two bills for separate and distinct forms of direct nominations. We expect, very soon, the report of the special legislative committee which investigated this subject in different states, and I believe the majority will take the responsibility, the Republicans, carrying the responsibility, will settle this question right."

The speaker said that "the Assembly will continue its work without permitting its attention to be diverted by any hysterical clamor, and after it has performed its duty it will go home."

It brought forth much applause from the loyal Barnes men, who seemed to consider it conservative enough not to shock their notions of party policy.

Senator Depew, after discussing national legislation, said:

"Some are looking upon the trial now in progress as to the effect upon the party, but because it is a trial before the whole State, with the people not only of our state but the whole country looking on, it will not harm the party. A party which can clean house without passion and with the Hotel Gramatan, Bronx, till yesterday. He is suffering from a heavy cold. Mr. Bedell said he has been out of the hotel only one day in the last week. He said last night that he would not go to Albany until summoned as a witness, and that would probably not be until next week."

"I saw the trial before the Senate of the United States on the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson. I participated in an impeachment trial of a district judge of this State, and I know something of such a tribunal which inspires confidence, because those who belong to all parties, and those who are classed as progressives, and those who are classed as conservatives, and those who are called radicals, are all judges, and all are satisfied with the result. The other speakers included Timothy L. Woodruff, chairman of the Republican State Committee; Representative George H. Southwick and Assemblyman Edwin A. Merritt. Many legislators attended.

COLONEL SANGER NAMED.

Governor Appoints Him State Commissioner in Lunacy.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Albany, Feb. 17.—Governor Hughes to-day sent to the Senate the nomination of Colonel William Cary Sanger, of Sangerfield, Oneida County, to succeed William L. Parkhurst, of Canandaigua, as a member of the state Commission in Lunacy. The nomination was confirmed. The place pays \$3,000 a year, and expires on June 30, 1911. Colonel Sanger was born in New York in 1833 and is a graduate of Harvard College and of the Columbia Law School. He was a member of Assembly from 1885 to 1887, and was a lieutenant colonel in the Spanish-American War. He served as Assistant Secretary of War from 1901 to 1903 and was president of the American delegation to the international conference to revise the Treaty of Geneva, in 1906. He served in 1908 as a member of the commission appointed to revise the military code.

TAXICAB HITS LAWYER.

And Woman Passenger Has Him Driven to Bellevue in Car.

David B. Mellick, a lawyer, with offices at 40 Liberty street, who lives at Blackstone, N. J., was run over by a taxicab last night, as he was crossing Broadway at 40th street. His nose was broken and he was badly bruised. Mr. Mellick was taken to Bellevue Hospital in the taxicab.

The car, in charge of Patrick Gilman, was going north, carrying two women and three men passengers, when it struck Mr. Mellick. The force of the blow hurled the lawyer to the street, and when it was seen that he had been painfully hurt one of the women told the chauffeur to take Mr. Mellick into the cab and drive to Bellevue Hospital. At the hospital it was said that his injuries were not serious. Mr. Mellick insisted upon making a complaint of assault against Gilman, who said he was not at fault.

WON'T DROP PITTSBURG CASES.

Pittsburg, Feb. 17.—District Attorney Blakely announced to-day that the indictments growing out of the councilman's scandals of 1908 against prominent Pittsburg bankers and politicians will not be dropped, as had been intimated, on account of the acquittal of Max G. Leslie on a charge of perjury. Other cases are scheduled for trial February 28.

JUSTICE JENKS REDESIGNATED.

Albany, Feb. 17.—Justice Almet F. Jenks, to-day announced that Justice Jenks, of Brooklyn, whose assignment as associate justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, 24 Department, will expire on April 4, will be redesignated, and that the presiding justice of the court had been notified to that effect.

SEYLER'S GOING HOME.

Waive Requisition from Jersey

Atlantic City Excited.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Petersburg, Va., Feb. 17.—William Seyler and his brother Orvis, who were arrested here last night in connection with the death of Jane Adams at Atlantic City, consented to-day to return to Atlantic City without requisition papers. James M. Malzed and Robert T. Miller, the Atlantic City detectives, had William Seyler in close confinement, and Orvis was put in jail through an exhaustive process of questioning.

With the two detectives the young men will leave here to-morrow morning for Atlantic City. William Seyler protests his innocence of the crime and denies that he was with Miss Adams when the tragedy occurred.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Atlantic City, Feb. 17.—News of the capture of William and Orvis Seyler excited this city. The Police Headquarters were besieged all day for information as to the date of return of the prisoners from Virginia.

The authorities are not going to take any chances with a crowd when their prisoners arrive here, and they have planned for a large squad of policemen to meet the train when it arrives. The prisoners will be taken to the city jail under heavy guard.

Captain Whalen had a long conversation to-day over the telephone with Detective Malzed, and admitted the detective had secured much valuable information. The nature of the information Captain Whalen declined to discuss.

The families of the accused men still refuse to believe that either William or Orvis had anything to do with the death of Jane Adams, and are now trying to raise money with which to hire a lawyer to represent the accused men. Mrs. William Seyler is prostrated with grief. She was left destitute and is in a sad plight.

WANT LARGER VOTE.

Assembly for More Caution in Constitutional Changes.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Albany, Feb. 17.—The concurrent resolution of Assemblyman Dana, of New York, proposing that the Legislature be required to ratify a constitutional amendment, was the occasion for the first debate in the Assembly so far this session.

The measure calls for two-thirds of the legislators to pass a proposition to be submitted to the people, and a vote of at least one-third of the electors voting for members of Assembly at the last general election. The purpose of the resolution is to arouse a greater interest in constitutional amendments, it having been found that only a small proportion of the people vote for them.

Majority Leader Merritt objected to the measure, declaring that if it were enacted there would never be another amendment passed, and therefore no more constitutional conventions.

"It is impossible to compel men to vote on questions if they do not want to," he said.

Mr. Dana replied that in the last election only 29 per cent of the vote cast for members of Assembly at the constitutional amendments. Mr. Chandler, formerly Lieutenant Governor, who favored the resolution, declared that constitutional amendments should not be left to such a small minority.

While Mr. Ward, of New York, favored the resolution, he thought that it should be amended to provide that one-third of the people voted on an amendment and a majority of the one-third for it. It should be successful. Finally the resolution was advanced. Mr. Ward said it was likely that when it came up on the order of final passage such an amendment as he suggested would be submitted on the floor of the Assembly.

NOT NIGHT GLASSES.

Alleged Bigamist Arrested, Despite Precautions.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Philadelphia, Feb. 17.—Although he carried a pair of field glasses which enabled him to detect the policemen at a distance and thus avoid them, Frank Fair, twenty-three years old, was arrested to-day at Fox Chase by John Duesy, a detective, on a fugitive warrant from New York accusing him of bigamy.

Duesy began searching for Fair a week ago, and in some manner the young man got away from him. He made use of the glasses when he approached or left his place of employment at Fox Chase, but it was dark this evening and he had taken only a few steps from the building when the detective suddenly appeared. Fair laughed when he was caught and told Duesy about his glasses. "They were no good at night," he said.

The warrant for Fair's arrest was issued by Magistrate Herrmann on the complaint of Miss Emily Southwick, of No. 83 West 12th street. She said she was married to Fair on May 27, 1908, at the Church of the Holy Communion, Sixth avenue and 26th street. Fair, who was a choir singer, was then known as Franklin Fair, the police say. She learned later, according to her story, that on February 4, 1903, Fair had married Miss Irene McMoran at St. Peter's Church.

GLOVER WILL CONTEST.

Relatives Testify Laundryman Was in Fear of His Wife.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Cambridge, Mass., Feb. 17.—Clarence F. Glover, the murdered Waltham laundryman, was influenced by fear of his wife when he killed her, Mrs.