



GOWNS GET WOMEN IN CUSTOMS TRAP

Two Caught with Costly Dresses Undeclared After Search of Baggage at White Star Pier.

RAIMENT HELD BY U. S. One Offender Weakens When Confronted with Passenger Lists of Line on Which She Said She Went to Europe.

Five persons arriving here on three steamships were called to task by the customs officials yesterday, and considerable baggage containing gowns and imported finery was sent to the Appraiser's Stores.

The offence in all cases was the bringing in of articles not recorded on declarations.

The most interesting case to the customs officials was that of Mrs. W. C. Hunter, of this city, who declared only \$50 worth of goods and made an effort to bring in gowns valued at \$700.

Had it not been for the scrutiny of Peter Bradley, the Deputy Surveyor in charge of the White Star pier at which the Baltic docked, the woman might have escaped the payment of duty. Bradley's determination to get the facts concerning her importation caused the baggage to be taken to the public stores and compelled her to appear at the Custom House before Deputy Surveyor George Smyth.

Excuses Caused Suspicion.

Mrs. Hunter was a saloon passenger on the Baltic. As soon as her trunks were on the pier she applied at the Deputy Surveyor's desk for an inspector to examine her baggage. She had declared only a few articles, and the examination would have been brief had not the inspector been uncertain regarding her excuses for having costly gowns that were undeclared.

Just as the inspector was about to report his find Bradley came by and the case was turned over to him. He looked at the gowns, and after calling in an appraiser was confident that they were new importations upon which duty should be paid.

Asked why she had not declared them, Mrs. Hunter said that she did not think it necessary, as she had had the clothes a year and had brought them here before when she came from Europe.

Bradley asked when she came in, and she said in the fall of 1912. When he requested the name of the ship she had come over on Mrs. Hunter answered that it was the Baltic, the ship she had just left.

The Deputy Surveyor then informed her that that was all he cared to know, explaining that if she was sure of the ship and date it would be an easy matter to prove it. Meanwhile he ordered her trunks detained and told her she would have to appear at the Custom House.

While Mrs. Hunter was on her way to Bowling Green Bradley telephoned the facts of the case to Deputy Surveyor Smyth, before whom Mrs. Hunter had to appear.

Smyth repeated the questions asked by Bradley, and when the woman had made the same answers he said to her suddenly:

"Mrs. Hunter, I have the lists of all the passengers who came over on the Baltic last year, and your name does not appear. It is more your name does not appear in any of our lists for all passengers who arrived at this port for the entire year."

Admits False Statement.

Confronted with this information Mrs. Hunter faltered and finally admitted that she had made a false statement. The gowns, she said, belonged originally to her sister, who lives abroad and recently gave them to her. While abroad she had some of them made over.

Mrs. Hunter was permitted to go on the promise that she would appear for further hearing on Tuesday.

While Bradley was talking with Mrs. Hunter Deputy Surveyor O'Connor, who was in charge of the French Line pier, a few hundred yards away, detained the baggage of Mrs. I. E. Bartel, a dressmaker, of St. Joseph, Mo. She had declared only \$200 worth of articles, but when her trunks were examined gowns of the latest Parisian models were found and appraised at \$1,000. After her baggage was detained the woman said she had been too ill during the voyage to make a more complete declaration. Her trunks were held and she also was permitted to go and appear for a hearing on Tuesday.

David Foss, a writer, who came over on the Cunarder Lusitania on Friday, made out a joint declaration for himself and Mrs. James Roe, of this city. A careful examination of the combined baggage showed that various articles of no great value had not been mentioned in the declaration.

It was said yesterday that while Foss had no right to make out any declaration other than his own the three persons will be permitted to pay duty on what they brought in and also to take their detained baggage.

WILLIE AS A WING SHOT

Bullet Misses Bottle Bird, but Brings Down Boy.

Shooting beer bottles on the wing is altogether too dangerous a sport for New York roofs. Magistrate Breen said yesterday, when William Hoffman, seventeen years old, of No. 332 East 94th street, was arraigned in Yorkville court for shooting Bernard Hagerty, a twelve-year-old lad who lives at No. 336 East 94th street.

Hoffman was trying, he said, to bring down a low flying bottle thrown by a boy companion. The shot "winged" Barney, though it missed the bottle. He explained that he was merely following Colonel Roosevelt's advice that every schoolboy should learn to shoot.

CHAMPIONS TO CHAMP

Great Scathe Feared Among Crustaceans When They Meet.

Angered by the prominence given to the feat of "Chris" Granger in eating thirty-nine pounds of lobsters at a single sitting, Lewis Johnson, of West New York, N. J., a Hamburg-American Line longshoreman, has challenged him for a \$500 bet. The contest will be held to-morrow night in a hotel at 23d street and Third avenue, Brooklyn.

"I've never seen this man Granger work," said Johnson last night, "but if thirty-nine lobsters is his limit he hasn't got any show in an endurance contest with me. Of course, he may be a good fancy eater, but he ought to stick to those affairs where they give points for manners."

"I'm a catch-as-catch-can diner. I like lobsters and I can eat fifty any time. If this fellow presses me at all I can do better, and may hang up a record for all time. I'm an amateur, and while I don't mind winning that \$500, I'm in this thing for the love of it."

MRS. GODDARD SNUBS LANE

Secretary Disrespectful to Her Brother, L. C. Ledyard, She Says

Colorado Springs, Col., Aug. 30.—The snubbing of Secretary Franklin K. Lane of the Interior Department by Mrs. Cass Ledyard Goddard, champion of the anti-suffragists and erstwhile social dictator of the polo playing colony here, has startled society.

Twice she refused point blank to meet the Secretary. On Thursday she declined to invite any Governor attending the conference of state executives to an exclusive dinner which could not understand menus printed in French. Mrs. Goddard is a sister of Lewis Cass Ledyard, a New York lawyer.

"Secretary Lane did not treat my brother with proper respect when he appeared before the Interstate Commerce Commission," Mrs. Goddard said.

FLEE APARTMENT HOUSE

Tenants in Danger After Roadway Cave-In in Paris.

Paris, Aug. 30.—A long spell of dry, hot weather has abruptly terminated in a series of cyclonic rainstorms throughout France. The storms were especially violent in the southeast and center, the grapevines and tobacco crops being totally destroyed in many places.

In Paris the heavy rains have caused the roadway over the subway which is now being constructed on the left bank of the river to cave in for a distance of thirty feet, threatening to involve the ruin of a tall apartment house. The tenants moved out of the building immediately, on orders from the police.

SAYS COMETS AFFECT SUN

Professor Orta Claims They Are Cause of Solar Spots.

San José, Cal., Aug. 30.—Professor A. Orta, of the observatory of the University of Santa Clara, announced today that he had discovered that the activity of the sun in the phenomena known as sun spots is intimately related to the proximity of comets.

He said that during a period of 164 years to date there have been 238 comets (their returns included) that apparently have influenced the action of the sun, having their perihelia coincidentally with the minima of spot frequency.

This Morning's News.

Table listing local and foreign news items with page numbers.

LIND STAYS TO WATCH HUERTA'S MANOEUVRES

Remains at Vera Cruz to Aid Americans and Ready to Go to Mexico City.

IGNORE WILSON WARNING

Comparatively Few Citizens of This Country Quitting Supposed Danger Zone—Washington Thinks Skies Are Clearing.

[From The Tribune Bureau.] Washington, Aug. 30.—Just as he was leaving the State Department this afternoon Mr. Bryan said that the Mexican situation showed no change. Before Secretary Bryan and Mr. Tumulty, secretary to the President, left Washington, however, messages were received from John Lind, the special American envoy at Vera Cruz, which added assurances to the already confident attitude of the administration. Secretary Bryan asserted nothing had been received to cause any discouragement.

Mr. Lind, it was authoritatively stated, had no thought of returning to the United States at this time, and was ready to proceed again to Mexico City at a moment's notice. It was the general opinion, however, that he would remain at Vera Cruz for some time, keeping in touch through Mr. O'Shaughnessy, the chargé d'affaires in Mexico City, with the actual condition of the Huerta provisional government and aiding American citizens who desired to return to this country. A long message was received to-day from Mr. O'Shaughnessy, but it was not made public.

Compare Diaz to Huerta.

Mr. Tumulty went to New Jersey for the week end, and the Secretary of State, who returned this morning from Pennsylvania, where he delivered two lectures yesterday, left again for another lecture in that state. He will be back in Washington to-morrow morning. President Wilson is at the summer capital in Cornish, N. H.

The report from London that Felix Diaz had announced that he would be a candidate for election to the Presidency of Mexico aroused considerable interest here. Representatives of the Constitutionalists said that they will not tolerate Diaz any more than Huerta.

Word was received at the State Department to-day that "The Mexican Herald," an American newspaper published in Mexico City, was urging Americans not to accept the advice of the Washington government to leave Mexico. The paper asserts that there is no necessity for Americans to run away from most parts of the country. This, it is expected, will serve to complicate matters, and it is feared that if such agitation is kept up President Wilson will not meet with success in clearing Mexico of Americans.

It is believed here that many Americans will remain in Mexico City, and that there will be few departures from ports or other places, where getting away would be easy in an emergency. Reports continue to arrive, however, of a considerable movement of Americans toward the American border or seaports on the Gulf and Pacific coasts, and there is no doubt that some thousands of Americans will follow the counsel of the government here.

The necessity of the State Department to obtain more money from Congress for the purpose of aiding destitute Americans is becoming more apparent, and by the end of next week, it is stated, the department will not have a cent for this purpose unless Congress in the mean time passes the pending bill which provides for an appropriation of \$100,000 for this purpose. The bill has been pending for some weeks.

Becomes a Waiting Game.

It still looks as if this government will play a waiting game. Officials say that no developments are to be expected for some days at least. One thing that the administration will wait for is the return of William Hayward Hale, the magazine writer, who for many weeks has been sending reports to the President from Mexico. After Mr. Lind arrived in Mexico he and Mr. Hale worked together. Mr. Hale will probably come to Washington on Wednesday.

There is one report to the effect that the administration has some tangible reason for believing that Huerta will not be a candidate for election, and that this comprises an additional reason for not disturbing the situation. When a Mexican official here was asked if Huerta would be a candidate he replied:

"Doesn't Gamba's note say that he will not?"

It is true that Señor Gamba in citing the constitutional provision which makes Huerta, as long as he remains constitutional President, ineligible for election, did imply that he would not be a candidate, but he did not actually say so. Most observers here feel that even if Huerta did not run himself, he would control the election and put in some candidate of his own selection.

It is regarded as certain that in such circumstances the opposition in Mexico, feeling that there will be no fair test at the polls, would adopt the procedure often followed in Latin-American elections, and simply refuse to vote. This would naturally prove a highly un-

MISS SCHEFF BANKRUPT; IS \$150,000 IN DEBT

Shuberts Largest Creditors, with Claim of \$100,000 for Breach of Contract.

SHE SAYS THEY OWE HER

Maintains \$23,000 Is Due for Back Salary—Papers Show She Is Half Owner in Virginia Estate.

Being the "angel of opera," in that she financed her own ventures, seems to be a precarious business to judge by the experience of Fritzi Scheff, the comic opera star, whose fortunes flourished remarkably before she undertook to finance "The Love Wager" in Chicago last summer. She applied yesterday to the court for relief from the pressure of her debts.

She owes some \$150,000, according to her petition, and has claims against others totalling only half that amount. The papers in the case also showed that she was half owner in some property in Virginia with John Fox, Jr., her second husband, whom she divorced last May.

According to the petition, Miss Scheff's largest asset is back salary due her from Lee and J. J. Shubert, the theatrical managers, on a contract from 1910 to 1912. She states that this amounts to \$23,000. These managers, however, have a counter claim against her of \$100,000 for breach of contract. The Virginia estate which she owns with Mr. Fox is at Big Stone Gap. Her share of the estate is valued at \$17,000, but it is mortgaged for \$9,000.

Other sums which the actress assures her creditors will help to make up the 50 per cent of their claims are as follows: The \$12,000 which she advanced to the Fritzi Scheff Opera Company in 1913, \$4,379.47 salary from the Fritzi Scheff Opera Company, \$16,744 salary and money advanced the "Love Wager" company and \$250 on her household goods.

Claims against Miss Scheff amounting to \$157,522 are unsecured. Among these claims is the one of \$100,000 by Lee and J. J. Shubert for breach of contract; \$6,949 owed to Henry Bendel, of No. 10 West 57th street, for gowns and millinery; \$2,150 to M. D. Sohn, Frankfurt-on-Main, Germany, for linens; \$2,000 to John B. Ellison & Son, of No. 259 Fifth avenue; \$2,000 on assigned claims of Saul Remeck to E. L. Brady, of No. 22 West 34th street, and \$1,626 to Stern Brothers, of West 23d street, for gowns.

Among other claims against her are Claude Gillingwater, C. Morton Horne, Henry Leone and other employees of the Fritzi Scheff Opera Company, Inc., \$3,384.98, and the Mutual Bank, 33d street, near Broadway, \$3,000 on four notes discounted by the bank. Nathan Burkan, of No. 105 Broadway, is counsel for the actress.

Miss Scheff lives at the Hotel Lucerne, at Amsterdam avenue and 79th street. Soon after she had divorced her second husband it was reported she was going to marry her manager, George Anderson, but she denied the rumor. Her first husband, who divorced her in 1908, was Friedrich Wilhelm Gustav Carl von Bardeleben, a German army officer.

Another actress who filed a petition in bankruptcy at the same time as Miss Scheff was Charlotte Christine Nielsen Lefler, who supported Miss Scheff in "The Mikado" three years ago. All she has with which to meet her creditors' claims of \$3,231, she says, are her wardrobe, worth \$100, and her household effects, valued at a like amount. She owes Dixie Hines, a theatrical agent, \$800.

CHASES THIEVES INTO WATER; CATCHES THEM

Patrolman Captures Two of Three Men Who Held Up Butcher Shop.

The screams of a woman who chased to be passing by saved Henry Fontana, a butcher, and his assistant, Peter Antonena, from passing a night in the leechbox of their shop at No. 335 East 62d street this morning. Three men who entered the store took \$100 from the cash register and were backing the butcher and his assistant at the point of two pistols toward the leechbox, in which they planned to tie them up.

The woman on the sidewalk saw the gleam of the revolvers and, screaming, ran away. The hold-up men followed her example, but the noise had scared up a crowd of pursuers. One of the fugitives ran west on East 62d street, and as most of the passersby elected to follow his two companions he escaped.

Patrolman John Fox heard the noise of the man hunt and left his fixed post at 62d street and Avenue A to join the pursuers. Straight for the river headed the two fugitives, nor did they stop when they reached it, but clambered over the stringpiece and into the water.

Fox had fired several shots in a vain effort to halt the men. After reloading his revolver he shouted to them to come up or he would root them out from their hiding place under the pier. Several more policemen had come up by this time, and two damp individuals, a fearing that they might be hit in a general melee in the water, came up and surrendered. At the East 67th street station they said they were Charles Cohara, thirty-two years old, no occupation, of No. 318 East 11th street, and "Mike" Masana, twenty-one years old, a bartender, of No. 436 East 11th street. They were locked up on a charge of robbery.

Continued on second page, sixth column.

A. W. MELLON AND WIFE

RECONCILED, IS REPORT

Divorced Pittsburgh Couple Said to Have Arranged Disputes Abroad.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.] Pittsburgh, Aug. 30.—Andrew W. Mellon, millionaire banker, and his wife, Nora McMullen Mellon, who were divorced here about fifteen months ago after a stubborn legal contest, have become reconciled in Europe, and will return to this country together in a few months, according to good authority.

While little is known of the circumstances surrounding the reconciliation of the banker and his beautiful wife, it is said that the main factor in bringing them together was their two children, Alisa and Paul, whom the court placed in the custody of Frau Meyer when the decree was granted to Mr. Mellon. It was the children who prevented the early troubles of the Mellons from becoming public.

Again, it was the parental love for their children which wielded such an influence on the banker and his wife as to cause them to settle their differences on several occasions and resume their marital relations. Finally, when the inevitable break came, both the husband and wife were earnest in their solicitude to prevent the names of the children from being sullied by the accusations made on both sides.

When the court granted the divorce to Mr. Mellon it was with the understanding that the two children were to be placed in the custody of Frau Meyer, their former private teacher, with the proviso that she was to have full control of them, subject to the supervision of the court. The court also decreed that Mr. Mellon was to have the children eight months of each year, while Mrs. Mellon was to be allowed to have them for the other four months.

When Mr. Mellon departed for Europe early this year he was accompanied by the two children. Ten days later Mrs. Mellon followed her husband across the ocean. At that time friends of both husband and wife declared that the breach between Mr. and Mrs. Mellon had healed, and that it would be no surprise if they became reconciled while abroad, and would eventually return to this country together.

The Mellons were married about twelve years ago. Mrs. Mellon was a noted Irish beauty. She met her husband while he was visiting England.

The couple were first separated four years ago. At that time rumors connected the names of Mrs. Mellon and George Curphy, an English army officer. Finally the banker dropped the original charges and substituted a charge of desertion. On the latter ground the divorce was granted.

The divorce case of A. W. Mellon, head of the Mellon National Bank, of Pittsburgh, attracted international attention through the efforts of Mrs. Mellon to thwart her husband's plans for obtaining a divorce.

In August, 1909, Mrs. Mellon, it is said, threatened to bring action for a divorce on "serious" grounds. Mr. Mellon at that time avoided a jury trial by signing an agreement whereby he settled \$1,350,000 on his wife and \$350,000 on their two children.

Mrs. Mellon was to go to Europe and establish a residence there, and then he was to bring action for divorce on the ground of desertion. Mrs. Mellon later asserted that instead of carrying out his agreement Mellon set traps to obtain evidence against her character, with the intention of bringing a suit on the ground of infidelity.

In 1911 a law was placed on the statute books of Pennsylvania giving a judge the right to deny an application for trial by jury in a divorce case. Mrs. Mellon promptly asserted that

Continued on fourth page, fifth column.

T. R.'S HOME ROBBED;

NEGRO BUTLER ACCUSED

Jewelry Valued at \$5,000 Taken While Colonel Was Absent in West.

It became known last night through the arraignment of George Roy, a negro butler in the home of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, before Justice of Peace Walter Franklin, in Oyster Bay, L. I., that during the Colonel's absence in the West the Roosevelt family was robbed of more than \$5,000 in jewelry.

Parker pleaded guilty to the thefts, which had been going on for some time. Part of the loot has been recovered and the negro has promised to produce the rest. The pieces which are still missing include several presents received by Colonel Roosevelt in his tour of the world. A heavy watch bearing the Roosevelt coat of arms is one of the pieces which has not been recovered.

Detectives from a New York agency, doubting that the thief will make good his promise of restoration, are searching about the Roosevelt grounds in the hope that some of the stolen articles may have been buried there.

Colonel Roosevelt himself took a hand in the proceedings on Wednesday, calling the negro into his study and taxing him with the thefts. The butler, when confronted by his master, broke down and confessed. Parker went to work at Sagamore Hill on February 22. He was assigned to assist the colonel's general factotum. The detectives believe that Parker sought service in the Roosevelt home simply for the chance of getting loot.

The piece which the Colonel is most anxious to recover is the watch box, its intrinsic value is only a little more than \$1,000, but it has been in the family for so many years that even its age has been lost track of. Property of Mrs. Roosevelt, Quentin and Archie is also missing. A diamond and pearl necklace of Mrs. Roosevelt's was recovered in a Brooklyn pawnshop.

In this connection (and this argument is also being used to combat the statement that the principal fight is to get control of the Board of Estimate, regardless of whether fusion elects a Mayor nor not) Mr. Mitchel will point out the importance of taking the Mayorality office out of the hands of Tammany Hall.

Budgets Were Held Down. It will be argued that the present fusion Board of Estimate has gone about as far as possible in reducing the tax rate without having control of the Mayor's office. The budgets of the borough presidents, including that of Queens, which has greatly increased in control of the Democrats, have increased only 5.85 per cent in four years.

On the other hand, it will be pointed out, the budgets of the offices in the control of the Mayor have increased 28 per cent, and of other departments indirectly in his control, such as the Board of Estimate and the Board of Education, have increased 35 per cent in the same period.

Another statement by friends of Mr. Mitchel is that he has no intention of building up a Democratic machine in case he becomes Mayor.

"You cannot put that too strong," was the way it was expressed. "If he becomes Mayor he will give an absolutely non-partisan administration. Some of the Republicans are against him because they are afraid of such a Democratic machine. However, we do not believe that the big Republican leaders are at all afraid of such a thing. Mr. Mitchel is much pleased at their attitude, disappointed as they naturally were over the defeat of Mr. Whitman as the candidate for Mayor."

Samuel S. Koenig, president of the Republican County Committee, at his summer home in Bradley Beach yesterday, replying to Montgomery Hare's

Continued on fourth page, fifth column.

MITCHEL TO STICK, HIS FRIENDS SAY

Not the Slightest Intimation Made by Fusion Leaders That He Resign Place on the Ticket.

RUMOR TRACED TO GAYNOR

Head of Fusion Movement Not Unwilling for Running Mates to Get on Mayor's Ticket, Believing It Would Hold Him Back.

Friends of John Purroy Mitchel, who are looking sharply after his interests while he is recuperating in the Adirondacks for the campaign, declared emphatically yesterday that not the slightest intimation had been made to him by any of the recognized leaders of fusion that he retire from the field as the candidate for Mayor.

They said they had traced all the reports to the Gaynor agents, who would be delighted to have the Mayer substituted for Mitchel, in accordance with the views of a few disgruntled Republicans.

"Furthermore," said one of these friends yesterday, "you may make it as strong as you please that Mr. Mitchel has no intention of getting out of the race."

Referring to the reports that certain anti-Tammany Democrats had asked President Wilson to induce Mr. Mitchel to retire because he could not be elected, and on the ground that it would be better to have Gaynor elected Mayor than a complete Tammany ticket, it was said:

"We rather hope the Gaynor workers will put it up to the President. It will give him a chance to come out openly in support of Mr. Mitchel and a reason for sending some of the members of his Cabinet here to speak for our candidate."

Thinks Gaynor Would Hurt Others. In this connection it was suggested that Secretary McAdoo of the Treasury Department and Secretary Redfield of Commerce and Labor would be effective in the campaign.

Although Mr. Mitchel's friends have advised him to stand out firmly against any other members of the fusion ticket taking a Gaynor endorsement, it is said that personally he would not be adverse to their doing so. However, he has decided to yield to the advice of his friends. As a matter of fact, he believes that if the Mayor should run alone, without putting up a full ticket, the Mayor would be stronger than if he carried the fusion nominees with him.

Mr. Mitchel is confident, however, it is said, that the Gaynor support would hurt the other fusion candidates for the Board of Estimate, for in accepting it they practically would be giving him a vote of confidence. They would be stopped from criticising the Gaynor administration, which is to be one of the strong features of the Mitchel campaign.

It is said that Mr. Mitchel intends to handle the police issue, which he holds was abandoned by District Attorney Whitman when he took a Tammany endorsement by giving his experiences with conditions in the department as he found them when he was acting Mayor during the illness of Mayor Gaynor. He took with him to the Adirondacks a large mass of data from which to get campaign material.

Mr. Mitchel, however, is rather glad that the police issue is to be subordinated, as he believes, by the endorsement of Whitman by Tammany Hall. The fusion nominee is anxious to center most of his campaign on the constructive work that needs to be done for the city.

In this connection (and this argument is also being used to combat the statement that the principal fight is to get control of the Board of Estimate, regardless of whether fusion elects a Mayor nor not) Mr. Mitchel will point out the importance of taking the Mayorality office out of the hands of Tammany Hall.

Budgets Were Held Down. It will be argued that the present fusion Board of Estimate has gone about as far as possible in reducing the tax rate without having control of the Mayor's office. The budgets of the borough presidents, including that of Queens, which has greatly increased in control of the Democrats, have increased only 5.85 per cent in four years.

On the other hand, it will be pointed out, the budgets of the offices in the control of the Mayor have increased 28 per cent, and of other departments indirectly in his control, such as the Board of Estimate and the Board of Education, have increased 35 per cent in the same period.

Another statement by friends of Mr. Mitchel is that he has no intention of building up a Democratic machine in case he becomes Mayor.

"You cannot put that too strong," was the way it was expressed. "If he becomes Mayor he will give an absolutely non-partisan administration. Some of the Republicans are against him because they are afraid of such a Democratic machine. However, we do not believe that the big Republican leaders are at all afraid of such a thing. Mr. Mitchel is much pleased at their attitude, disappointed as they naturally were over the defeat of Mr. Whitman as the candidate for Mayor."

Samuel S. Koenig, president of the Republican County Committee, at his summer home in Bradley Beach yesterday, replying to Montgomery Hare's



FRITZI SCHEFF.