

Miller Deaf to Political Pleas To Oust Rattigan

Governor Refuses to Dismiss Able Superintendent of Prisons Because He Is Independent of the Party

ALBANY, May 28.—Some politicians in the Republican party have been endeavoring to persuade Governor Miller to replace Charles F. Rattigan, Superintendent of Prisons, with a Republican, believe that his merit renders so far have been barren of results and Superintendent Rattigan's friends, among whom are numerous Republican organization men. Their efforts have been in vain, the term of which has three years to run.

George Franklin, of Troy, who has a record for faithfulness to the Republican party, is the man in whose behalf the campaign against Rattigan is being conducted. It is said, however, that Governor Miller is unwilling to make such a change simply for partisan reasons and that Rattigan's ideas as to prison management are in complete harmony with his own.

Superintendent Rattigan is an independent Republican, a co-worker with Thomas Mott Osborne, when the latter was a leader of the upstate anti-Tammany Democrats. When Mr. Osborne entered Auburn prison in gray as Tom Brown to start the Mutual Welfare League, Mr. Rattigan was warden of the prison.

His ideas as to prison reform are advanced, though far less radical than those with which Mr. Osborne experimented when he was warden of Sing Sing. Under the administration of Superintendent Rattigan prison affairs have been running smoothly in all the state institutions.

In his appointments Superintendent Rattigan has been influenced by the ability of the candidates rather than by politics. Lewis E. Lawes, whom he made warden of Sing Sing, is a Republican. He reappointed E. S. Jennings, another Republican, as warden of Auburn prison.

Warden Kaiser, whom Superintendent Rattigan appointed as the head of Clinton Prison, and Warden Hunt, whom he appointed at Great Meadow when death caused vacancies at those institutions, are both Democrats.

In addition to his reluctance to dismiss any able man simply because he happens to be a Democrat, Governor Miller is said to be influenced to some extent by advisers who recommend that he continue the policy of Governor Smith, who retained Republicans in important positions until the end of their terms.

Talley Urges Improved Courtroom Acoustics

A plan for improving the acoustics in the courtroom of General Sessions was laid before the judges yesterday by Judge Alfred J. Talley. It is proposed to ask the Board of Estimate for an appropriation to cover the cost of installing the acoustics during the summer months when some of the courtrooms will be closed.

"I know of no place in the world where the necessity of hearing the spoken word is so important as in the courtroom," said Judge Talley. "Here life and liberty are the issues involved, and any detriment to the listener may

send the man to the electric chair. Any one who ever sat in these courtrooms knows that a large part of the time of a trial is consumed in pleading with the witnesses to speak loud enough for the entire jury to hear."

Judge Talley pointed out that the courtroom was built in 1893 and that the value of acoustics apparently did not enter into the plan of construction. After outlining these things to the other judges he submitted a plan prepared by a reputable concern showing that the acoustics could be installed at a moderate cost.

Negro on Rampage, Kills One and Wounds 4 More

BUFFALO, May 28.—Edward A. Wilson, thirty-five years old, a sergeant of the police reserves, was killed and four other persons were shot at midnight last night when a negro ran amok with a pistol in a house occupied by negroes in Clinton Street.

The police are looking for Oscar Edwards, about twenty-seven years old, an occupant of the house, who is said to have done the shooting and who escaped from the back door while the police were at the front.

Wilson was shot in the heart and through the mouth while pursuing Edwards. The others shot, who are in the hospital, are:

John Wilson, twenty-four, shot in left arm, and his wife, Anna Wilson, twenty-five, shot in side.

Mrs. Una Haynes, twenty-two, shot in shoulder.

Mrs. Anna Edwards, twenty-three, wife of Oscar Edwards, shot in left hand.

All of the wounded are negroes. Occupants of the house had called for a policeman to protect them against Edwards, who they said was drunk.

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Murphy Has Begun 20th Year As Boss of Tammany Hall

Rich and Healthy, He Lets Cares of Running Machine Rest Lightly on Him; "Tom" Smith Likely to Take Scepter When He Retires

Charles F. Murphy is well started on his twentieth year as the boss of Tammany Hall. This is the record for any ruler of the wigwam. Croker, Kelly and Fernando Wood also held long terms, but they fell short of the Murphy incumbency. While Croker held on until January 13, 1902, he told his friends after the election of Seth Low in the fall of 1901 that he had had enough and he was going to retire for one of the younger men. Then followed an experimental exterregnum during which Lewis Nixon wore the toga for a few weeks and then retired

for a triumvirate. During all of this interregnum Mr. Murphy was recognized as the real "comer," and such he proved to be.

Croker retired with an abundant fortune, with the avowed intention of taking the remainder of his life easy. He became an Irish estate owner and bred a horse that won the English Derby. He is still living.

Following Croker there came a period in the history of Tammany that is looked upon still as a bit of comedy in New York politics. Sore over their defeat, the older men in the Tammany councils let the "better element" have their head just to see what they would

do. Lewis Nixon, a young engineer with a national reputation, was chosen to succeed Croker. This was a few days after Low and his heads of departments were installed in control of the city government.

Nixon Wearies of Task

The chastened braves sat back and watched Nixon with detached interest. They had lost the offices and they did not much care what happened at the City Hall. Nixon proved to be a fairly good mixer, but as the district leaders were indisposed to cooperate in reform ideas suggested by him, he soon wearied of his task and resigned. Murphy during this time was preparing to take over the leadership. The next act was to elect a triumvirate to run the organization. Charles F. Murphy, Daniel McMahon and Louis F. Haffen, of the Bronx, were elected as a governing committee. They had a hard summer. "Bill" Devery, the deposed chief of police, was a burden to Tammany and the triumvirate tried to "lose" him. He refused to be eliminated. Devery covered the triumvirate ridicule by alluding to them as "Sport," "Two Spot" and "Joke." Mr. Murphy was "Sport," Mr. McMahon had to answer to "Two Spot," and the hapless

Haffen spent an embarrassed existence tagged "Joke." Murphy's advent to supremacy in the organization was during this comedy period. While the town was laughing at the triumvirate he went ahead with his plans for the leadership, to which he was formally chosen in September, 1902.

While his twentieth anniversary will not technically be reached for more than a year, it is a fact that from the time of Croker's retirement in the early winter of 1902 potentially he was the boss of the organization, the Sullivan siding with him more often than with others.

Prosperous and Healthy

Like Richard Croker in one respect, Mr. Murphy has amassed a competence during his incumbency of the Tammany leadership. He spends much time in the summer at Good Ground on the island, and in the winter, when he feels like it, goes to Hot Springs, Ark., or French Lick, Ind. He enjoys good health, plays golf and does not allow the cares of leadership to worry him. He runs the organization with a "loose rein."

He surprised the town three weeks ago when he told a Tribune reporter that Hyman would be renominated, and

he likewise predicted his reelection. He rarely indulges in prophecy.

The hard work in connection with the management of the Tammany organization is done by Public Administrator Thomas F. Smith. It is likely that "Tom," who for twenty years or more has been secretary of Tammany Hall, will succeed Mr. Murphy when the time comes for a change. His retirement from Congress this year was due to the desire of Murphy to get out from under the hard work of attending to the district leaders and mending political fences. Thomas F. Smith is a lawyer, a forceful public speaker, and enjoys the confidence of the district leaders. "Fix it up with Tom," is what "C. F." tells most of those who run to him with grievances.

Potatoes 30 Cents a Bushel Now; Were \$7.50 a Year Ago

WASHINGTON, May 28.—Potatoes reached the lowest price of the season in the last week when old stock sold in carloads at Chicago for 50 cents per 100 pounds or 30 cents a bushel, according to reports to-day to the Bureau of Markets. A year ago the price was \$7.50. In most large Eastern wholesale markets the price range to-day is from 75 cents to a dollar.

Wife and Baby Claimed

The woman who abandoned her baby on Friday night in a Third Avenue station, and later was taken from the East Fifty-first Street police station, was identified yesterday by Chester Szalkowski, of 445 Nepperhan Street, Yonkers, as his wife. She had been in a nervous condition for a long time, he said, and had tried repeatedly to run away from home. Once, before she had got as far as Stamford, Conn., according to her story, she had been missing since Thursday night, when a child slept in an unburned room for leaving the baby, sixteen months old, in an "L" station was that she did not know where her husband was and she was without resources. Yet her next move was a ride in a taxicab, and it was the chauffeur who took her to the police station.

She will remain in Bellevue Hospital until her condition improves, and the baby, in the best of health, is there also.



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