POLICE BOARD REFORMS.

NEW CAPTAINS AND SERGEANTS TO SERVE ON PROBATION.

Capt. Reilly and 25 Others Retired in a Lump at a Cost of Nearly $20,000 a Year to the Pension Fund—Many Old Complaints to Be Tried—The Senior Inspector Not to Be Allowed to "Whitewash" Capt. Gallagher—Don't Mention Politics if You Want to Get on the Force.

The reform Police Board spent a great part of the time at its meeting yesterday clearing the way for the campaign which it has laid out for reorganizing the force under its command. That it may trust to having outside help in this work was suggested by the first matter President Roosevelt brought before his colleagues.

He said he had a letter from Mrs. Josephine Shaw Lowell asking for an appointment for herself and Mrs. William Jackson for a time previous to May 24, when they might come before the Board and make some suggestions about the employment of police matrons.

"We are not in a position to do anything about the matter," said Mr. Andrews, "no matter what they suggest. We can't do anything for a couple of months."

"Why do they want a full Board hearing?" said Mr. Parker. "I should think a committee might receive them. No business end was ever gained by hearing a lot of speeches."

It was arranged that some of the Commissioners would receive the ladies on Monday at 12 o'clock, and word will be sent to them to that effect.

President Roosevelt said he had received a list of the Sergeants who were thought by Chief Clerk Kipp to be suitable for the secretaryship of the new Police Civil Service Board. The Board will choose a secretary from the list. A list of all the roundsmen in the department had also been prepared and handed in.

Commissioner Grant said that this was a proper introduction to a preamble and some resolutions which he had prepared, and he offered the following:

Resolved, That all members of the police force who may be selected by the Board of Police for promotion (except those to be promoted to the rank of roundsman) shall be promoted to serve on probation for a term of six months. If during such period of probation any such officer prove himself by his conduct and efficiency equal to the requirements of the position to which he has been promoted, then he shall be confirmed in his new rank. If, on the contrary, the said officer shall be found during this period of probation to be, from any cause whatever, not thoroughly qualified for the position to which he has been elevated, then it shall be the duty of the Board of Police to remand him to the rank from which he was promoted on probation. During this period of probation the Board of Police can make careful inquiry as to whether any officer has paid or promised to pay any money or other valuable consideration for the recommendations or influence used in gaining his promotion, or whether there may have been any reasons brought to bear except merit and fitness for the position. If such a condition of affairs be found to exist, it is then in the power of the Police Commissioners to reduce the officer who is on probation to the grade from which he has sought advancement.

"As roundsmen," Col. Grant went on, "hold a rank which in military life is known as that of 'non-commissioned officers,' and from which they can be reduced to the grade of patrolmen at the pleasure of the Board of Police, I would recommend the adoption of the following:

"*Resolved*, That the Captains of precincts be directed to recommend from time to time any patrolman whom they have found to be especially efficient and deserving; that the Board of Police shall then have the Chief of Police investigate thoroughly the character and qualifications of the patrolmen then recommended and report the result of his investigations to the Board; that these recommendations and reports shall be placed on file, to be considered by the Board of Police in the selecting and appointing of roundsmen."

It was suggested that it was not possible to promote men and then reduce them in rank. This was met by striking out the word "promoted" and inserting "detail" in lieu. This, too, occasioned some argument as to whether it did not interfere with the new powers of the Chief of Police. Commissioner Andrews said it did not, and President Roosevelt announced that, as the matter of the resolution met with the approval of the whole Board, it was adopted, subject to such verbal changes as might be required to make it comply with the law.

Mr. Roosevelt was appointed a committee of one to go before the Board of Estimate to-day to get $1,500 added to the police appropriation to pay Civil Service Board clerks. Mr. Roosevelt said they wanted four good men, and that he thought two of them should be paid at the rate of $1,800 a year and two at $1,000. They will be employed for three months.

Then came a great clearing out. Mr. Parker handed up a big pile of applications for retirement, made by men who have been on the force for twenty-five years or more or who are veterans of the war and have served twenty years or more. All were entitled to retirement unless there were charges pending against them, and in a few minutes these men had been put upon the retired list with half pay:

Capt. Thomas Reilly of the East Fifty-first street station, pensioned at $3,375.

Sergeant William Kass of Madison street; Sergeant Horace S. Wells, Union Market; Sergeant Thomas Farley, Morrisania; Detective Sergeant Silas M. Rogers, central office, each $1,000.

Patrolmen William Walsh, Morrisania; Patrick Sullivan, East 104th street; James Smith, Jefferson Market Court; Philip Smith, Central Office; Thomas H. Reid, East Twenty-second street; George Nicholson, Morrisania; Dennis McMahon, East 104th street; John McCabe, East 104th street; Henry Armstrong, Tombs Court; Jacob Brunner, East Eighty-eighth street; William Cahill, West Sixty-eighth street; Charles O'Donlly, East Twenty-second street; James De Boen, West 126th street; Thomas Tracy, Court, Michael Geary, West 100th street; Edward Gillespie, City Hall; William Goodwin, Old slip; Edward Grady, Eldridge street; James Hunter, Mulberry street; Detective James Montgomery, central office, each $700, and Doorman Thomas C. Lawrence of Kingsbridge, $500.

This adds $19,875 a year at one slap to the demands upon the pension fund.

The applications of Capt. Creeden and Detective Sergeants Kush and Crowley were laid over.

The application of Sergeant John J. Taylor of the Steamboat Squad, who was a witness before the Lexow committee, was refused.

Commissioner Grant reported that he had looked into the case of Hostler James Kennedy, who was accused by a woman, and he reported in favor of restoring Kennedy to duty. This was done.

Commissioner Grant spoke in favor of a patent gas regulator which he had been trying in the station houses. The gas bills for last year, he said, were $16,026.96. The regulators had made a saving of from 14 to 28 per cent. where he had tried them, or an average of 21 per cent. The maker would rent them to the department for $3.50 a month for one year and then sell them for $30 apiece.

He also reported that in order to insure getting good horses without having to look through a lot of worthless ones, he had drawn up a specification as to what a good police horse should be. The United States cavalry horse was taken as a type for the patrolman's mount and the artillery type of horse for the patrol wagon teams.

The wording of the resolution adopted on Wednesday requiring reports from the commanding officers of precincts regarding the clubs, political and all, that the men belong to did not seem to Commissioner Parker to be comprehensive enough, and he wanted it changed. At Commissioner Andrews's suggestion it was resolved to issue a blank and have each man in the department answer for himself, saying that he belongs to such and such clubs and to no others.

"We will put their answers on file," said Mr. Andrews, "and hold them against the men if they are not truthful."

"I presume that by the time the reports come in the men will belong to very few clubs," said President Roosevelt.

"This order does not apply to the Commissioners, does it?" asked Col. Grant.

Among the communications read was one made to Mayor Strong by the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, asking about how New York treats the question of gambling houses. "We don't care to inform them," said Mr. Parker.

"File it," said Mr. Roosevelt, and it was filed.

The West End Protective League sent charges to the Police Board recently against Capt. Gallagher of the West Sixty-eighth street station, regarding certain saloons which violate the Sunday law. The matter was referred to Chief Byrnes, and yesterday a report was read from Inspector Conlin. Inspector Conlin said that he had found Capt. Gallagher attending to his duties, and that Gallagher had told him, in effect, that he was very sorry that the league had found any liquor stores open on Sunday, and that he was in perfect accord with the league in its work.

Clerk Kipp was about to file the report away when President Roosevelt stayed him, saying. "There have been numerous complaints about Capt. Gallagher's precinct." Col. Grant took up the charges at once for Gallagher.

"I have never seen Capt. Gallagher," he said, "but I lived in that district, and I think the police there are overanxious to try to do their duty. Since the raids on the Tenderloin there has been a great influx there of disorderly persons, and the police are having a hard time of it."

"I think we had better invite Lawyer Coleman to come before us and hear what he has to say for the league," said Mr. Roosevelt.

"Yes," said Mr. Parker, "we don't want any whitewashing reports."

"Don't mention politics or religion hereafter in your letters if you want to get a place on the police force." President Roosevelt brought the matter up again yesterday and said he was going to offer a resolution at the next meeting that all such communications should be returned to the senders.

"That's just as well," said Col. Grant. "Politics ought to be kept out of the files of this department. The knowledge as to which party a man belonged to would certainly affect some of us. It would me, I acknowledge. If I knew a man was a Republican it would certainly prejudice me in his favor, and I couldn't help it."

"It would have just the opposite effect upon me," said Mr. Roosevelt, "and I should have trouble to free myself of it."

"I think it ought to be stopped," said Col. Grant, "for I don't want to be subjected to temptation."

It will be stopped and Clerk Kipp will have a printed form which he will send hereafter with rejected communications telling why they are returned.

"Rule 449," said President Roosevelt, "I find to be a dead letter. It provides that when a patrolman leaves his post for any reason, he shall make a written report of it afterward to the Sergeant on duty at the desk. It is never done. If patrolmen were required to obey this rule it would be a great check upon them."

Col. Grant said he had been making a study of the rules which the men did pay attention to and had marked them in the book. "This one is not marked," he said.

"Rules that are not attended to ought to be struck from the book," said President Roosevelt. "It was agreed that a notice should be sent out, to the effect that hereafter all the rules in the book would be strictly enforced, and that the particular reason for sending out the notice was because of the repeated violations of rule 449."

Mr. Andrews turned in another lot of judgments against delinquent policemen. Only one involved a penalty big enough to call for the attention of the Board. This was the case of William J. Harrett of the Twenty-ninth. He had been caught drinking in a liquor store. There was no doubt of the fact, Mr. Andrews said, but there was some merit in the defence. Harrett was ill. In view of this real defence, Mr. Andrews recommended a thirty-day fine instead of dismissal, and the Board concurred.

Mr. Andrews then gave the Mayor a gentle rap, by saying that it was three weeks since the new law was passed permitting policemen to have passes over street railroads, but that Mayor Strong had not yet signed the certificates which would enable the men to get passes. "It is a hardship upon the men to pay fares," said he. The Mayor's memory is to be officially jogged.

In answer to a resolution passed on Wednesday, Chief Clerk Kipp had prepared a list of all the cases in which old charges are pending and untried. He gave the list to President Roosevelt yesterday. "With the permission of the Board," said the President, "I will take this list, have the papers brought to me, and prepare these cases to be put upon the calendar for trial at once." He got the permission, took the papers, and the Board adjourned.

The list contains names in which charges were made a year ago.

It also contains the names of Capt. Max F. Schmittberger, Capt. Frederick Martens, Sergeant William O'Poole, Detective Sergeant William Fink, Patrolmen Michael J. Hickey, Bernard O'Reilly, David J. Mullen, Emanuel Meyer, William Mulcahey, and Jeremiah Levy, all Lexow cases. It was learned after the meeting that Capt. Schmittberger will probably escape even this threatened ordeal because of the immunity promised to him by Mr. Goff. The others will probably have to stand trial. These are the other cases on the list:

Patrolman Edward Rothschild, seduction; Francis Waters, false arrests; Fred. Wagner, took female prisoners into saloons, drank with them, and accepted $1 as a bribe; Henry Hahn, false arrest of Bridget Doyle; John Londrigan, refused to make an arrest; Henry Resmeyer, in liquor saloon; William Schrieber, assaulted and arrested citizen; John H. Eluge, attempted assault upon Annie Schulthies; Francis S. Donnigan, assault upon Yung Fong; Bernard Dunn, assault upon two citizens, and the triple case of Roundsman Michael A. Downs and Patrolmen Kearn J. Larkin and John Kenny, accused of levying blackmail upon push cart venders.

ALPHA DELTS DINE.

Exhorted to a Sturdier Americanism by the Rev. E. O. Flagg.

Green and white decorated the big banquet room at Delmonico's, where 200 Alpha Delta celebrated last night the sixty-third annual convention with song and speechmaking and banqueting. The slogans of more than a score of colleges and universities made the room ring, from the short, sharp yell of Hamilton, where Alpha Delta Phi was born, to the long hurrahs of Toronto University, the latest institution to receive within its walls the star and crescent.

Clarence A. Seward presided, and after an address of welcome introduced Prof. George H. Newcombe, who spoke on Alpha Delta Phi as a social influence. He was followed by Talcott Williams of the Philadelphia *Press*, who spoke eloquently on Alpha Delta Phi in civic life, following the line that Edward Everett Hale has for years preached to the fraternity over which he so long presided, that the fate of the nation is in its educated men, and that good citizenship is the first duty of every Alpha Delt. Charles L. Eastman, Charles L. Colby, and W. L. Foss completed the list of set speakers. Later the Rev. E. O. Flagg in a brilliant impromptu speech made a stirring appeal for a sturdier Americanism in our institutions, and called upon all American Alpha Delts to keep alive the spirit of patriotism. Responses from the various chapters and the singing of fraternity songs kept the guests until a late hour.

The institutions represented were Amherst, Williams, Cornell, Columbia, Union, Hamilton, Yale, Bowdoin, Brown, College of the City of New York, Rochester, Trinity, Toronto, Hobart, Johns Hopkins, Ann Arbor, Wesleyan, University of Minnesota, and Dartmouth.

COUNTERFEITERS IN TREMONT.

They Are Arrested After Passing Three Spurious Dollars.

John Williams, 27 years of age, who says he lives in Chicago, and James Carcey, 23 years old, who calls himself a Jerseyman, were arrested yesterday for passing counterfeit money on Tremont shopkeepers.

The two men went into a candy store kept by Thomas Williams, at 4,007 Third avenue, and purchased five cents worth of candy, tendering a dollar in payment. They got 95 cents change. They had scarcely got out of the store when Mr. Williams discovered that the dollar was bad. He followed them and saw them go into another candy store at 174th street and Third avenue. After leaving there they entered a saloon at 174th street and Railroad avenue.

Williams notified Policeman Murray and Schmidt, and they arrested the two men as they were leaving the saloon. When the prisoners were searched at the Tremont station house three dollars in good money and one lead dollar was found in Williams's pockets, while three spurious coins, wrapped in a bit of cloth, were found on Carcey. The men were locked up and will be arraigned before United States Commissioner Shields to-day.

The police think they came from Worcester, Mass., as both wore derby hats with the name of a dealer of that town stamped on the lining. Investigation by the police revealed the fact that the men passed spurious dollars in each one of the places they visited after they left Williams's store.

"BIGOTED ROMAN CATHOLICS."

Lawyer Miller Wanted to Know If There Were Any on the Jury.

George E. Westcott sued Sumner Lodge, I. O. O. F., in Judge McGrath's Court in Jersey City yesterday afternoon for seven weeks' sick benefits, amounting to $135. Lawyer Gebhardt, who appeared for the plaintiff, said he wanted to be informed before the trial was begun whether there were any Odd Fellows on the jury, because if there were he thought they ought to be retired. This called out Lawyer Miller, who appeared for the lodge.

"I would like to be informed," he exclaimed, "whether there are any bigoted Roman Catholics on the jury?"

"What has that to do with the case?" asked Judge McGrath in surprise.

"It has a great deal to do with it," replied Lawyer Miller. "The Pope of Rome recently issued an edict prohibiting Catholics from becoming Odd Fellows, and if there are any Catholics on this jury they are likely to be prejudiced against the lodge."

Judge McGrath explained that the Pope's edict applied only in a religious sense to members of the Catholic Church, and had nothing to do with the qualifications of a Catholic for jury duty. The jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff, and Lawyer Miller gave notice that he would appeal.

Review of Jersey's Fourth Regiment.

Nine companies of the Fourth Regiment were reviewed in its armory in Jersey City last night by Gov. Werts and Brig.-Gen. Wanser. The galleries were filled with ladies and their escorts.

Gov. Werts presented the medals for long service, and sharpshooters' and marksmen's medals were presented by Gen. Bird W. Spencer, Inspector of Rifle Practice. After the official programme had been exhausted, dancing was begun.

While the review was going on Adjt. Gerardin fell in an epileptic fit. He soon recovered.

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WHAT MR. PETERSEN FOUND

OR THE BURIED TREASURE OF BAITING HOLLOW.

If the People Are Truthful There Were Two and a Half Quarts of Silver in a Pint Box Besides a Half Pint of Gold—Old Mr. Wells Discusses Buried Treasures and the Virtues of Mineral Rods.

When Petersen, the mason, was digging a cistern in George Wells's back yard at Baiting Hollow, L. I., ten days ago and came across an iron box, the truthful citizens of the Hollow filled it with gold and silver coin. They named a moderate amount at first. Petersen didn't deny it.

They kept increasing it until at last it reached the modest sum of $1,300, of which $600 was silver, despite the fact that the box was only six inches long, four inches wide, and three and one-half inches deep, outside measurement. It would hold about a pint; $600 in silver would be two and one-half quarts. Petersen in the mean time never lost his head. He got up at 5 o'clock every morning, did the chores, and put in the rest of the day working around. He didn't deny the stories, probably because it isn't his nature to deny anything. As a matter of fact, Petersen seldom talks at all. He possesses that rare quality of never talking at all except when he has something to say, and he hasn't had anything to say about this find.

Petersen is a middle-aged man. He is of Swedish descent, and he has lived in Baiting Hollow a long while. He is tall and lean. Judging from his appearance, and not from his conversation, he doesn't rank above the average citizen of the Hollow for intelligence. Petersen's story from his own lips begins with "m-m." It continues with "m-ms," and concludes the same way, and at its conclusion Petersen walks off puffing vigorously at a strong cigar, his face hidden under a wide-brimmed straw hat.

George Wells, the village Postmaster, the village storekeeper, shoemaker, tooth puller, harnessmaker, liquor and cigar dealer, hotel keeper, wall paper supplier, and newspaper correspondent, in whose back yard the treasure was found, says he has obtained a more complete story from Petersen than the above. He is the man who fixes the sum at $1,300, despite the dimensions of the box. All there is of the story as he tells it is this: Petersen was digging a cistern and a man named Rudolph was wheeling away the dirt. When Rudolph's back was turned Petersen uncarthed a box, which he opened. Rudolph looked at him over his shoulder and saw a handful of glittering coin. Petersen shut the box and slipped it into his pocket. Questions about the size of Petersen's pocket and the weight of the $700 worth of gold and $600 worth of silver are not answered. Lest there should be some doubt about the truth of this story because of these inconsistencies it may be said positively that Petersen found something, and it was at least enough to pay the car fare between Baiting Hollow and Long Island City next time he wants to come to New York. The amount of the find has very little to do with the story any way. The real interest in the find is the bringing to light of the fact that a deep and settled conviction exists in the minds of Baiting Hollowites that the earth about them is just full of treasures, that Capt. Kidd buried his money there, and that some day it will be found and everybody in Baiting Hollow will be rich. Over on the bluff by the Sound there is a big rock. It is on a hill and is called Money Rock, because it is supposed that Kidd's money is buried somewhere in the neighborhood. This rock was named in the early days of Uncle Jonah Hills, who owned the first mineral rod in Baiting Hollow, and therefore was looked on as an oracle.

Old Mr. Wells, George Wells's father, who is 88 years old, "an' has chopped 6,000 cord o' wood since drawin' blood with an axe," "gosh," says: "Mineral? Why, I remember he was the tarnedest man 'bout money there ever war in th' Hollow. Why, he used t' tell me that I could bury a quarter in th' sand on th' beach an' not tell him where, an' he'd go three days later an' git it. I never did take much stock in that, mind yer, that's what he claimed. I war mighty curious those drys, but I warn't 25 cents' worth, an' that's what it 'ud 'a, cost if I'd a buried it. I remember him an' Jake Benjamin goin' out toward th' rock an' drawin' a circle an' then another circle round that. The rule war that nobody that stepped in th' first circle should leave it, an' all th' dirt that come out o' th' hole must be put inside those two circles; that's what Uncle Jonah said. Well, him an' Jake got inside th' circles an' they dug till they war down five feet. Then Jonah he felt the box an' Jake he felt excited and throwed a bit of dirt too far out, an' Uncle Jonah says that moment th' box slipped. He felt it slippin', it went fourteen feet, an' there it stopped. It didn't stay there. They couldn't git near to it again. That's what Uncle Jonah allus used t' say, but I never took much stock in it.

"I'd say t' him sometimes, 'Well, Uncle Jonah, let's go git it,' an' he'd shout, 'No, sir, no more! I'm done with it, I tell yer!' an' I guess they couldn't. Leastwise, nobody ever did. Uncle Jonah had another box o' gold an' silver planted in the centre of the meadow, leastwise he allus said so, an' some people dug for it. But who'd believe it? I didn't. Then he located another pot 'twixt Wadin' River an' Sweeny's Landing. He said it wa rin a hollow and there war 450 pounds o' gold an' silver in it. But I didn't believe such stuff.

"Uncle Jonah war one o' those superstitious creeters, an' he would have staked his cabbage crop on that mineral rod o' his. He kept rampagin' around with the rod, an' one night, over in Skeleton Hollow, he says it begun jumpin' an' tearin' around like mad. Uncle Jonah knew there must be a heap o' gold near there somewhere to make that rod carry on like that. He kinder had a feelin', though, that if there war any gold there it warn't his'n. So he yanked out a leetle prayer book that he always carried in his pocket, an' got prayed t' th' intention to take that gold would be taken out o' him. But the more Uncle Jonah prayed the more that mineral rod kept jumpin'. After a while he got mad an' began lookin' for the gold. It didn't take him long to find it, he dug it so fast.

"Uncle Jonah war always a leetle touchy about the amount o' gold he found. However, there war enough to buy the whole o' Riverhead town, and it was all in an old iron kittle. One o' Uncle Jonah's superstitions was that it war bad luck to dig up gold except when the moon is in the last quarter. He just happened to think that there war a new moon, so what did he do but put that kittle back in the hole where he found it, purposin' to come back and git it when the moon was in the last quarter. He went back in about ten days with his mineral rod, but the blamed think wouldn't work any more, an' Uncle Jonah never got the gold. This is what Uncle Jonah said, but who'd believe such stuff? I wouldn't.

"I should say," said Mr. Wells, "that about once in ten years Baitin' Hollow's had a fit an' th' people'd hunt for gold. Now, there was Calvin Cook, Henry Edwards, Jake Benjamin an' Squire Ian't Edwards. They kinder hunted around Money Rock, an' they might a' got something only the devil got after 'em. That's what they say. Henry says he heard the rattlin' o' chains, but who'd believe that? I wouldn't. I always had it in mind that Squire Ian't Edwards rattled chains himself t' scare Henry. Another time I was in a party. We hunted th' north side o' Lisha Dayton's place an' then out t' Winter Hill. We struck charcoal at two feet, but we couldn't get th' gold."

Mr. Wells went on and related the history of twenty or thirty gold-hunting expeditions, and then branched out on the question of mineral rods. A mineral rod, the kind that was used in Baiting Hollow at least, is a straight stick three feet long. It is reputed to turn and point to the earth whenever the holder is on a spot under which there is any precious metal. "My brother Lewis had one," said Mr. Wells. "He give $3 for it, and my opinion is it wa'n't worth three cents. Now he and some others 'ud take that rod out an' it 'ud bend for 'em. But it 'ud never bend for me. I'd hold it right and she'd never budge. They'd hold it an' it 'ud go over. That was because they were weak. I always thought. Any way, they near broke their backs diggin', an' they never got anything; so I don't think mineral rods are worth three cents, though there is people that sets great stock by 'em. I broke one o' 'em up once an' it was full o' quicksilver."

It looked last week as though one of the fits that Mr. Wells told about was coming on. Petersen's find was followed by a find by Bernard Ford. Ford was ploughing up a field that had never been ploughed before. He came across a number of bricks and two or three old coins. The bricks had little shining specks through them. They were three inches long, two inches wide, and an inch thick. Ford took one to George Wells, who pronounced it silver. A piece of this was exhibited to THE SUN reporter. It looked like a piece of slag. Exactly what it was is not known yet, but it certainly contains no metal of any sort. This find nevertheless added to the interest of Petersen's find, and if it hadn't been planting time the "fit" would undoubtedly have come on and the whole district would be dug up now. As it is the excitement is dying out, and before the crops are all in it's likely that the danger will be past.

The explanation the people who don't have fits give of the finding of an occasional coin is that during the Revolution a party landed near Riverhead and all the people buried their money and their silver to keep it out of the hands of the soldiers. Some of the people were killed and what they had buried was never recovered.

One of Waring's Drivers Killed.

While William Harris of 556 West Fifty-fourth street was driving a street cleaning cart at Eleventh avenue and Forty-eighth street yesterday he fell under the wheels, which crossed his chest. He was removed to Roosevelt Hospital, where he died last night at 8 o'clock. Harris had been employed two years as a driver in the Street Cleaning Department.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

EXTORTION IN CHICAGO.

Extensive Frauds Discovered in Several of the City Departments.

CHICAGO, May 17.—Mayor Swift's investigations into various departments of the municipal government here has revealed startling disclosures of extortion and corruption.

There appears to be little evidence thus far that the city officials were engaged in the extortions, but there is much to prove that corrupt practices in connection with the administration of some of the departments have existed for a long time.

The Mayor learned that persons calling themselves tax agents have been receiving information from somebody in the special assessment bureau and offering this information for a consideration of 50 per cent. to persons who used it to get money out of the city in rebates on special assessments. The city official who gave out the information is alleged to have received 15 per cent.

Another abuse was discovered in connection with the Health Department. Persons claiming to be inspectors have been extorting small sums of money from milkmen. The Mayor's investigation was unsatisfactory in this regard, but he is inclined to think the milkmen were imposed on heavily by outsiders.

Commissioner Kent is still at work on the alleged stuffed pay rolls, and has discovered grave irregularities and some striking discrepancies between affidavits of work performed and the pay rolls. The Commissioner is engaged on the March pay roll trying to find out how much money has been spent and, if possible, to whom money is due. In discussing the financial condition of the city to-day Mayor Swift said:

"In regard to the frauds in connection with the assessment bureau, there are now due rebates to the amount of $575,000 and not a dollar to meet them with. Fund "W," which is supposed to meet this indebtedness, has run dry. It was exhausted four years ago when many thousands of dollars of rebates were paid and money was taken from it for other purposes. Superintendent Jones informed me that he had a single footing that would tell the exact condition of affairs. There is a deficit of $6,000,000 in the debt of the city now. When I was acting Mayor the deficit was $4,000,000 and the $2,000,000 increase has occurred within a year and a half."

The Mayor declared that to meet the liabilities salaries would be scaled down and the collection of the city's revenues more sharply enforced. He said the appropriations had been liberal enough under the previous administration, but no progress was apparently made.

Abuses have also been discovered in connection with the Building Department. Building Commissioner Downey informed Chief Badinoch to-day that within the past week contractors and owners of buildings in the course of erection have been visited by men wearing the stars of building inspectors, who stopped the work on the buildings under the pretence that it was in violation of the ordinances.

Sums of money ranging from $10 to $50 were extorted to allow the work to go on. The investigation developed the fact that the extortioners were not now in the employ of the department. Fully fifty complaints of this kind have been received.

The stars of all the inspectors have been taken up, and new badges will be issued and numbered so as to prevent such an imposition in the future. Inspector Shea is hunting for the extortioners.

FREE COINAGE AT 16 TO 1.

Resolutions of the Silver Conference and Plan of Organization.

SALT LAKE CITY, May 17.—The Silver Conference passed these resolutions to-day:

That an organization be created to be called the Bimetallic Union.

That its object shall be to inculcate the principles of bimetallism and the restoration of the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, by the circulation of documents, the holding of meetings, and other appropriate means;

That the Union shall have an Executive Committee consisting of one member from each of sixteen States and Territories invited to this Conference, which shall have charge of its work. Three members shall constitute a quorum of this committee.

The Chairman appointed the following delegates to attend the Bimetallic League Convention to be held at Memphis beginning on June 11: Ex-Gov. Bradford Prince, New Mexico; F. E. Sargent, Butte; Gov. Alva Williams, Denver; C. M. Donaldson, Oregon; the Hon. Henry W. Laugenur, Woodland, Cal.

Sound Money Advocates in the South.

GALVESTON, Tex., May 17.—The State Bankers' Convention this morning adopted resolutions against the free and unlimited coinage of silver.

WILMINGTON, N. C., May 17.—At a meeting of the Produce Exchange of this city held to-day two delegates to the Sound Money Convention to be held at Memphis were appointed.

Prof. Laughlin Debates with "Coin."

CHICAGO, May 17.—The debate on the silver question between Prof. J. Lawrence Laughlin of the University of Chicago and G. H. Harvey, author of "Coin's Financial School," took place to-night at the Illinois Club. The assembly room was crowded.

Birdie Sutherland Not to Be a Duchess.

LONDON, May 17.—The *Morning* will say to-morrow that, yielding to pressure, the Duke and Duchess of Tweedmouth, the parents of Dudley Churchill Majoribanks, who is heir to the dukedom, have terminated his friendship with Miss "Birdie" Sutherland, a noted Gaiety Theatre beauty.

It was reported in March last that Dudley and "Birdie" were engaged, but that the Duke insisted upon having the marriage postponed for two years on account of the youthfulness of his son, who is only 21 years of age. Miss Sutherland, according to the *Morning*, will bring suit for breach of promise, retaining Sir Edward Clarke and Mr. C. F. Gill as her counsel.

Mr. Gladstone Indisposed.

LONDON, May 17.—Mr. Gladstone is suffering from a slight attack of lumbago, and is compelled to remain indoors. He intends to cruise in the Mediterranean next month in Sir Donald Currie's yacht.

Notes of Foreign Happenings.

The wedding of Princess Helene of Orleans and the Duke of Aosta has been fixed for June 20.

There was a slight snowfall in London, Essex, and Kent counties, England, yesterday morning.

The Government of Uruguay has given notice to Great Britain of the termination of the Anglo-Uruguayan treaty of commerce.

Mrs. Asquith, formerly Margot Tennant and now wife of the British Home Secretary, is seriously ill, owing to a premature accouchement.

The appointment of Count Goluchowski to succeed Count Kalnoky as Austro-Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs will be gazetted to-day.

A despatch received in London from Manila says the Spanish steamer Gravina, with her cargo, has been lost off Capones in a typhoon. Only two of her crew were saved.

The city of Manchester, England, has offered to assist the ship canal by foregoing the £72,000, due as interest on the city's £5,000,000 loan, until traffic improves.

A tube nine inches long and two inches in diameter exploded under the cushions of a seat on a local train at Walworth, a suburb of London, yesterday. Only the occupant of the seat was injured. It is believed that the tube was charged with gunpowder.

Premier Crispi of Italy will prosecute for libel Signor Felice Cavallotti, the Radical leader, and the editor of the *Secolo* newspaper in Milan. The *Secolo* said Crispi ordered that the political prisoners be ill treated, and Cavallotti repeated the statement in a public speech.

The semi-official newspapers in Berlin deny that any of the Ministers have offered recently to resign or have any intention of doing so. They also assert that no difference exists between Chancellor Prince Hohenlohe and Herr von Koeller, Prussian Minister of the Interior, who mismanaged the Anti-Socialist bill for the Government.

A storm that is sweeping the Netherlands has done much damage east of the Zuyder Zee. The water is so high that it has become necessary to close all of the sluices. The country in the neighborhood of the Zwarte Water is submerged, and the River Vasel is flooding the land around Kampen.

Ancient Order of Foresters.

ROCHESTER, May 17.—The Grand Court of the Ancient Order of Foresters closed its four days' session to-night. The Rochester ticket elected both officers and delegates to the Supreme Court at Cleveland, in September, as follows: Grand Chief Ranger, Dr. William R. Howard, Court City of Rochester; Grand Treasurer, Simon Geismar, Court Genesee; Grand Secretary, William Daly, Brooklyn. Retiring Junior Woodman Daniel Lanigan withdrew all of his protests and made a speech to that effect. Delegate Rauch of New York was examined on the charge of giving up inside news to Rochester reporters, but was exonerated.

TWO BUILDINGS COLLAPSE.

In Jericho, R. I., Three Persons Were Killed and in Chicago Two.

PROVIDENCE, May 17.—By the collapse of a four-story tenement block at Jericho this afternoon three persons were killed, and seven others, who were more or less severely injured, narrowly escaped a similar fate. The dead are: Mrs. Hermoine Guertin, a French Canadian woman, aged 54 years; Asa G. Aldrich, a carpenter, aged about 55 years; Alice Lemoine, a child two and a half years old.

The injured are: Mrs. Joseph Lemoine, Mrs. Louise Lemoine, Noe Ricard, a mason; a boy named Vallierc, Damase Gosselin, a lad of 9 years; Joseph Lemoine, owner of the building, and his grandson, a lad of 9 years, who was the most seriously injured of the survivors.

The building was a two-story frame structure with basement and attic, adjoining the French Catholic Church, on Quidnick street. It was owned by Joseph Lemoine, a man of 80 years, who, with his sons, Frank and Louis, and several workmen, have been engaged several weeks in turning around and raising the building to fit the basement story for business purposes.

The building originally stood with its gable end toward the street, but in order to utilize a greater frontage it was moved about, with its side parallel with the street. It stood on the blocking used, but to-day the blocking was removed, leaving the building supported only by the underpinning in the rear, and on the other three sides by the stilt-like supports formed by the studding.

Several carpenters were at work during the afternoon, and, probably jarred by the pounding of their hammers, the frail supports gave way under their load, and the building fell, burying in the ruins the workmen, the occupants of the tenements up stairs, and a couple of schoolboys, who were passing at the time.

CHICAGO, May 17.—While fifteen men were engaged this afternoon tearing down the walls of the Globe Building, which was burned six weeks ago, one of the walls fell, without warning to the workmen, with fatal results.

William Mangle, 38 years old, 262 West Thirteenth street, was fatally injured and died soon after. James Carbine, 27, single, Montrose, Ill., had his skull fractured and body crushed. He also died. Thomas Burns, 33, married, 56 Ambrose street, had scalp wounds and body bruises, but will live. A. Tarkobsky was also injured, but will recover.

The other workers managed to rush from under the falling mass of brick and mortar in time to escape injury, and at once began to dig out the unfortunate ones. While they were at work there came another crash, accompanied by the warning cries of the assembled men, women, and children, as a large pillar at a corner of the building gave way.

Then part of another wall came down and a panic spread among the terrified crowd. All around the workers, but all managed to grope their way to the street in safety.

Morris Fegal, the contractor who had the job for tearing down the burned building, was arrested on the charge of criminal carelessness.

J. L. GIBSON KILLS HIMSELF.

He Was a Cousin of the Late Senator Gibson of Louisiana.

NEW ORLEANS, May 17.—James Lyon Gibson, a young man of excellent repute in New Orleans and belonging to one of the best-known families in Louisiana, committed suicide to-day in Audobon Park by shooting himself in the head. He was a son of Major A. C. Gibson and a first cousin of the late Gen. Randall L. Gibson, United States Senator. Gibson was appointed to West Point, but left there without graduating to accept a Federal place in Washington. He returned to New Orleans some time ago and held various railroad places, depending principally, however, on his income from his large sugar plantations for support. Two months ago Mr. Gibson was married to a wealthy young woman of Cincinnati, Miss Mary Shoemaker, daughter of the builder of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

From Cincinnati the newly married couple returned to Scotland Hall, the fine old Gibson mansion. Misfortunes have since followed Gibson. The failure to secure his sugar bounty reduced his income, his wife became ill and returned to her parents, and his health was bad. A letter received from his wife or her relatives a few days ago seemed to unnerve him. He resigned his place, left his boarding house Wednesday, and was not seen again. This morning his dead body was found in the park. In his pocket was his will and letters to various friends, in which he attributed his suicide to business reverses and sickness, and made provision for the funeral.

CLEVELAND IN MONROE'S PLACE.

Why His Portrait Occupied the Frame from Which Monroe's Was Removed.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—Mr. Ives, the Detroit artist who painted a bust portrait of President Cleveland for Don M. Dickinson, has gone to Detroit for the purpose of delivering the picture to its owner. The entire work on the portrait was done in the White House, where a studio was improvised for the artist, and where the President gave frequent sittings. The picture is said to be an excellent piece of work, and is regarded by those who have seen it as a good likeness. Before it was taken away from the city some of the President's friends expressed a desire to see how it would look in a frame. In order to accommodate them one of the many old historical paintings which adorn the walls of the Mansion was taken down, the portrait removed from the frame and that of President Cleveland substituted. The portrait removed in this way was that of ex-President James Monroe, the author of the celebrated doctrine that has been so much under discussion of late. It seems an odd coincidence that this particular frame should accidentally have been utilized to the displacement of Monroe. After the framed portrait of the President had been on exhibition for a short time it was removed from the frame and taken away by the artist, and the portrait of President Monroe was restored to its frame and its former place on the walls.

ZELLA NICOLAUS ANGRY.

She Stamps Her Foot and Declares She Won't See Her Husband.

Lawyer Alexander Simpson, who will conduct the divorce suit of Zelia Nicolaus-Ruhman in case she persists in bringing it, made a futile effort on Thursday night to patch up the differences between the couple. He sent for Mrs. Ruhman to come to his office in Jersey City early in the evening. Then a mutual friend persuaded Ruhman to go to Mr. Simpson's office. Mrs. Ruhman was in the lawyer's private office when her husband arrived. On being informed that Ruhman was in an outer room waiting to have an interview with her she became greatly excited. She is reported to have stamped her foot violently and to have screamed at the top of her voice:

"I won't see him! I have no further use for him! Don't ask me to see him, Mr. Simpson, because I won't do it!"

Mr. Simpson exercised all his persuasive powers to get her to consent to a meeting, but in vain. Ruhman and the mutual friends finally went away.

20,000 Coal Miners in the Pittsburgh District Called Out.

PITTSBURGH, May 17.—At to-day's convention of coal miners of the Pittsburgh district, it was resolved almost unanimously to immediately call out every mi