TO PROBE PRINTING SCANDAL.

NEXT GRAND JURY LIKELY TO GET AFTER THE RING.

Philbin Has Laid Bare Irregularities in Contract Letting, but Will Probably Leave the Task of Punishing Them to Jerome—Coler Said to Have Told.

From a statement made by District Attorney Philbin yesterday, it seems likely that early in the administration of District Attorney Jerome the Grand Jury will be called upon to investigate certain matters in the awarding of contracts for city printing.

"Information warranting an investigation by the Grand Jury of the manner of conducting the *City Record* office has been received by the District Attorney's office," said Mr. Philbin yesterday. "An investigation has been begun, in charge of Assistant District Attorney Thorne, and the information seems to indicate neglect of duty in the advertising for bids, particularly for stationery and printing.

"As there is so little time left of my administration, the matter will go to my successor and it seems to me that Justice Jerome will be the proper person to make public the particulars, if he deems it wise. I may say that sufficient proof has been obtained to warrant the matter being taken for investigation to the January Grand Jury."

Comptroller Coler has been aware of the investigation Mr. Philbin referred to and has helped it along. The last witness was examined yesterday afternoon by Mr. Thorne. Who the witnesses are was not revealed. A city printing "ring" appears to have done all the printing under Tammany and to have made it an expensive proceeding for the taxpayers. A man who has been investigating along these lines said yesterday:

"The charge has been made that the method of advertising for printing supplies for the city has been a deterrent to those not in the 'ring.' As an example, in the official advertising would appear a call for bids for a couple of hundred sheets of paper for the General Sessions Courts. An outside bidder would estimate his bid so as to include the cost of making the plates from which to print the order. The figures of the 'ring' would be less than the cost of making the plate and the 'ring's' bid would be accepted. In a few days along would come a so-called emergency order for a very large amount, to be supplied at a cost proportionate to the price paid for the little order. Had an adequate order been made in the first instance all bidders would have been free to estimate for it at much lower figures than were paid for the large emergency order upon estimates based upon the price set for the small order.

In regard to the *City Record* itself, it is said, that publication has printed everything turned in, with the result that individual reports were duplicated in department reports. The increased volume of printing has called for an increased outlay for the printers.

William A. Butler is supervisor of the *City Record*. When he was told of Mr. Philbin's statement he said:

"There cannot be anything wrong in this department, for a triple checking system prevails. Every order and every disbursement require the signature of Mayor Van Wyck, Corporation Counsel Whalen and Comptroller Coler. This particular matter of advertising has been under the control of the Comptroller. There has never been a nickel lost in this establishment."

It was generally known throughout the department that the District Attorney was making inquiries about the way of conducting its business. Supervisor Butler made public yesterday a letter to the *City Record* Board in which he said that no complaints had ever been made concerning the supplies furnished by his department. Many demands are made, he said, upon its appropriations which cannot be anticipated when appropriations are made.

"With the abolition of the Council, the Board of Public Improvements and the Municipal Assembly, &c., whose minutes have generally been lengthy," says Mr. Butler, "and with the reductions caused by the unparalleled competition between bidders for the *City Record* I am of the opinion that there will be a considerable reduction of the cost of the work for 1902 but a considerable arrearage for 1901 will remain to be met."

The bids for the city printing, city stationery and the printing of the *City Record* were rejected on Thursday by the Board of *City Record*. In most particulars the bids of the Martin B. Brown Company, which has done much of the city printing under Tammany, were underbid by Thomas P. Sidebotham, a newcomer in the field. The Brown Company's bids were lower than usual.

KEPT HER IN SLAVERY.

Kentucky Family Did Not Tell Mary Stewart of Lincoln's Proclamation.

LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 27.—Mary Stewart, a colored woman, 75 years old, who says she was a slave all her life until five weeks ago, arrived here to-day in search of a son who was sold out of her arms in Kentucky forty-four years ago. The woman says she was bought when a girl of 10 by a family named Stewart living in the mountains of Carroll county, Ky., and that she had never heard until recently that all of the slaves had been made free by President Lincoln. The Stewarts lived away from the scenes of war, and although she heard that a conflict was being waged the fact that it freed the people of her race was carefully concealed from her.

Her old master and mistress died a few years ago and their son decided some months ago to remove to western Kansas. He brought the old woman as far West as Kansas City where he practically abandoned her. He told her she would find her son at Omaha, but gave her a railroad ticket only as far as Topeka. She walked most of the way from that city, 100 miles. Her small wants were supplied by colored people on the way. At Beatrice she got a railroad ticket to Lincoln, and was sent from here to-night to Omaha.

She has but meagre information with which to locate her son, but is filled with sublime hope that she will easily find him. The old woman is feeble and wrinkled, but her joy over freedom from bondage is very great and is expressed in every utterance. The truthfulness of her remarkable story is vouched for by the colored people here and at Beatrice who have aided her in her journey. She tells them she was the only slave left.

Jersey Huntsmen Fined.

August Reinhold and Joseph S. Walling, both of Newport, N. J., and business men, and three others were fined in Matawan on Thursday and arrived in Jersey City with their game yesterday morning. Game Warden Hankins was on the same train, but did not introduce himself to the hunters until they reached a Pennsylvania furnished for the city. Then he arrested them on a charge of unlawfully taking game out of the State. They were fined $20 each by Justice of the Peace Lehmer of Jersey City.

Accepts a Harvard Professorship.

BOSTON, Dec. 27.—The Rev. Edward Caldwell Moore, pastor of the Central Congregational Church of Providence, who was recently elected Parkman professor of theology at Harvard University, has accepted that post and will enter upon his new duties next fall. Mr. Moore, who is a nephew of Prof. Moore, of the Andover Theological Seminary, has been at the head of the Central Church in Providence for twelve years.

CAPE COD JOKER WHIPPED.

For Twitting Girl About Her Love Affairs—She Wielded the Whip.

BARNSTABLE, Mass., Dec. 27.—Eben B. Crocker, chairman of the Board of Selectmen of this town, a former Sheriff of Barnstable county and one of the most prominent men on Cape Cod, was publicly horsewhipped at the village blacksmith's shop here several days ago by Miss Jane Dickson, a pretty country girl, because he twitted her on a love affair.

A few years ago, Miss Dickson was much in the company of McClure Peters, who conducted a poultry farm here, and the village gossips all said it would be a match although Peters was somewhat older than the girl. When the talk came to the ears of the man, he packed his grip and started for the gold fields. The country people discussed the matter vigorously at the grocery stores and at the sewing circle, finally concluding that there was never any attachment between Peters and Miss Dickson.

On the day of the assault, Miss Dickson drove up to the smithy's shop to have her father's horse shod, sitting in the wagon while the work was being done. Just then Mr. Crocker came in and made some remarks to the young woman concerning the Peters affair. She became very angry at the Selectman and told him he should know better than to try to talk to her about such a personal matter, whereat Crocker laughed.

Seizing the whip in her wagon, Miss Dickson jumped out and chased the town father around the shop, dealing stinging blows over his back, shoulders and head.

Crocker finally escaped to the open air and by that time Miss Dickson was so short of breath that she could pursue him no further. Mr. Crocker is a typical Cape Cod joker and claims that all he said to the girl was in a good-natured way and not intended as an insult.

PITTSBURG BOY ASSASSINATED.

Shot in Arizona by a Man He Had Quarrelled With and Knocked Down.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 27.—Thomas Maxwell, a contractor of Pittsburg, received news on Wednesday by telephone from Morenci, Ariz., that his son Harry was murdered there on Dec. 21. Maxwell ordered that his son's remains be shipped to Pittsburg, and the body is now on the way here. To-day Mr. Maxwell received a letter from the Rev. Ralph W. Illingworth, pastor of the Morenci Presbyterian Church, giving the details of the murder.

Mr. Illingworth says that being a Pennsylvanian, he became well acquainted with young Maxwell, when the latter arrived in Morenci about two weeks ago. On Dec. 18, Maxwell got into a quarrel at Newton, near Morenci, with a man of the name of Burns, and when Burns tried to hit him, Maxwell knocked him down. On Dec. 21 Maxwell was in the public reading room in Morenci and Burns and a man of the name of Randolph came in and picked a quarrel with him. Maxwell started to leave the room, but Randolph, who is a big cowboy, caught him and held him, while Burns stepped up and deliberately shot him in the breast. Maxwell died the next day, and the assassins, who had fled, were captured. Mr. Illingworth said the Sheriff had to place a guard about the jail to save them from being lynched. Maxwell was on a pleasure trip.

THIEF IN COLD STORAGE.

Found Nearly Frozen to Death With the Stolen Property in His Hands.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 27.—John Reynolds, a thief who works the Union Station, stealing from passengers, had an experience last night that he will not soon forget. Reynolds grabbed a young woman's travelling case and started to make off with it. As he was walking through the station he saw a couple of policemen, and supposed that they were watching him.

Reynolds opened the first door he came to, which led into a cold storage room, used by the Union Station Restaurant Company. Closing the door behind him, Reynolds found himself in utter darkness. To make matters worse, he was unable to reopen the door from the inside.

Miss Ellen Extine of Poplar Bluffs, Mo., whose case had been stolen, appealed to the police on discovering her loss. Policemen Murphy and Kelleher searched the building, but failed to find the thief, until one of them remembered having seen a man step into the cold storage room. Reynolds was discovered lying on the floor with a stolen grip in either hand. He was hauled outside and was found to be nearly frozen to death. He recovered in a cell.

ROCHESTER MURDER MYSTERY.

Woman Says Her Husband on His Deathbed Told Her He Killed Wm. Pearl in 1897.

ROCHESTER, Dec. 27.—The mystery of the murder of William Pearl is revealed by the confession of Mrs. Gilbert McKee of this city, who says that her husband, Samuel Stokes, who died three years ago, killed Pearl. She says her husband told it to her on his deathbed. The woman was recently married again to McKee. She says the knowledge has troubled her more or less ever since, and being unable to keep it any longer and allow innocent persons to be suspected of the crime, she decided to inform the police. On Christmas night she went to Policeman Burke and told him the story. She was taken to police headquarters, where she told her story to Sergt. Helle. Yesterday afternoon she was at police headquarters and told her story to Chief Cleary and Assistant District Attorney Widener. The Chief says that the woman tells a perfectly straight story. Pearl, who was the son of a Rochester policeman, was found dead on the morning of May 12, 1897, on the lawn in front of Nazareth House. Stokes was never suspected of the crime. His motive is said to have been jealousy.

THE GUARD MUST GO DRY.

Result of the Escape of a Military Prisoner From Fort Totten, Willets Point.

Major Conrad Murray in command at Fort Totten, Willet's Point, L. I., has discovered that members of the guard have made it a practice to go out for refreshments while on duty. The discovery followed the escape of a prisoner. William Monfort, a private in Company H of the Coast Artillery, was picked up lock of his cell, and putting on a fur cap and coat belonging to a guard, walked out and passed the sentry without being challenged. Monfort got a boat, and rowing out in the Sound, boarded a passing schooner and escaped. The sentry said that he did not challenge the man, as he thought he was one of the guard going up for refreshments. Soldiers on guard duty hereafter will not be permitted to go out for anything.

JAPANESE LINERS NEW BOATS.

Orders for Three Big Steamers May Be Placed in This Country.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 27.—Capt. S. Tomiko, engineering superintendent of mechanics and designer of the Tosa Kaisen Kaisha, a Japanese steamship line, arrived to-day from Japan on his way to Europe to arrange for the construction of three more the steamships for his company. They are to ply between the Orient and San Francisco. These vessels are to be of the same class as the Kiang and Shang of the Pacific Mail line. They are 440 feet over all, 60 feet beam, 32 feet deep, and have a speed of 16 knots.

If the negotiations from the American shipbuilders can compete the orders for the same prices as those in Britain yards, he will give the orders to build ships in this country.

ROY HEDGES, GONE, WRITES.

HARVARD MAN, ON CHRISTMAS VISIT, VANISHES.

Sends Watch and Ring to His Parents and Says: "I Don't Intend to Come Back"—Father, Col. S. M. Hedges, in Advertisement, Implores His Son to Return.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Dec. 27.—Roy S. Hedges of Schenectady, N. Y., the son of Sidney M. Hedges of Boston, the father having formerly been commander of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, disappeared night before last from Sewickley, a fashionable suburb twelve miles below Pittsburg, and has not been found. He and his father and mother were on a visit to Joseph J. Tillinghast, Mr. Hedges's son-in-law. Mr. Hedges is very much alarmed about his son's disappearance.

Young Hedges, his father and mother came to Sewickley to spend Christmas with Tillinghast. On Christmas night Tillinghast suggested that his visitors go with him to the Edgeworth Club, but young Hedges declined, saying he would stay with his sister and mother. About 9:30 P. M., Mrs. Hedges asked her son to mail a letter for her in the nearest letter box. Without putting on his overcoat, Hedges left the house with the letter. That was the last seen of him.

When his father and Tillinghast returned late and learned he had not come back, they set out to search but could find no trace of him. It is said that members of the family at first feared that the young man had committed suicide, but this suspicion was dispelled yesterday when Col. Hedges was startled to receive a letter from his son. With the letter were Roy's seal ring, gold watch and chain and other trinkets. A note in the envelope read: "I am going away and don't intend to come back."

The parents think the young man has been stricken with sudden aberration of mind, as his relations with his parents and friends were of the happiest, and he had no particular cares, so far as known.

The father to-day published the following appeal to his son in the newspapers:

Do not let any discouragement or misapprehension keep you from coming back to start a new life, as you are the comfort and help of your suffering and distressed father and mother. Communicate at once to relieve the anxiety and distress of your family.

Mr. Hedges has sent orders to newspaper clipping agencies all over the country, asking them to send him clippings of all unidentified suicides from New York to San Francisco, and of all unidentified persons found drowned or otherwise killed.

The Pittsburg police have sent out circulars, descriptive of the young man's appearance. He is said to have a smooth face, dark hair and eyes, heavy eyelashes; to be about 5 feet 7 inches tall, and to have worn a dark coat and waistcoat, striped trousers, black soft hat and no overcoat. He had a gold watch and seal ring, both having the initials "R. S. H." He also had some money.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 27.—Col. Sidney M. Hedges is one of the best known men in Boston. He was formerly a member of the Governor's staff, and commanded the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company. He is a member of several clubs.

Col. and Mrs. Hedges have lived at the Norfolk House for several years, and the son made it his home when he was not away from Boston attending school. He was about the hotel recently, and while there he always carried himself well. He is well known among the young men of Boston. He is a Harvard man and a member of some of the clubs frequented by the younger set.

COL. GILON'S TRIAL DRAGS.

Maybe He Wants to String It Out Until After Coler Gets Out of Office.

The trial of Col. Edward Gilon, Collector of Assessments and Arrears, against whom charges of incompetency and mismanagement have been preferred, was continued yesterday before the Comptroller. The sitting, which was extended until after 8 o'clock last night, was devoted to the defence of Col. Gilon. The impression was gained by those who attended the trial that John C. Shaw, counsel for Col. Gilon, was bent upon protracting the trial so that it would be impossible to finish it within the few days of office-holding which remain to the Comptroller. If such was Mr. Shaw's intention the Comptroller saw through it and denied several applications for adjournment and indeed at one time intimated that he was willing to sit until midnight if necessary in order to have all the evidence put in without an undue waste of time. Mr. Shaw examined each of the witnesses at great length upon questions of detail and routine affecting the conduct of the bureau and as he has still several witnesses to call the probability is that the trial will not be concluded until a late hour to-day.

Deputy Collector McLaughlin testified that Chipp, the defaulter, had acted at times as cashier. The witness also identified many entries in the cash book as being in Chipp's writing. Mr. Shaw spent a great deal of time in bringing out that Chipp had continued his thefts after July, 1900, the month when Col. Gilon was practically superseded by Edward A. Slattery. The imputations contained in this part of the examination angered Mr. Slattery, who, when he was asked to produce certain books, shouted to Mr. Shaw: "You had better send up that husky son of yours to help me to bring down those books, if you want them."

"Never mind about him," Mr. Shaw replied, "we will bring him forward some time when you won't like it."

Col. Gilon was called and described, for nearly two hours, how the business of his office was transacted and the great volume of work which he had supervised. He had never taken a vacation, he said, since he was appointed, and had frequently worked far into the night. He had permitted Chipp to take the place of the cashier at times, he said, because he was a trusted employee and, therefore, he looked upon him as being a responsible official. Col. Gilon denied that he had been remiss in the supervision of the office.

NEW ERIE TELEGRAPH CO.

The Reorganization Plan Provides for $10,000,000 Bonds.

Details of the plan for the reorganization of the Erie Telegraph and Telephone Company, involving a transfer of its control to the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, were made public in a circular to the Erie company's shareholders yesterday. The plan provides for a new company to acquire all of the assets, or substantially all of the assets, of the present company.

The new company is to be capitalized at $10,000,000 of 6 per cent. cumulative preferred stock. After two years $10,000,000 of common stock and $10,000,000 of 4 per cent. thirty-year gold bonds will be issued. Provision is made to be provided for the application of subsidiary companies.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company is to purchase a majority of the shares of the Erie Company at sixty and out of the money received from the sale of stock will be paid off and provision is made provided. The portion of stock which is to be offered to Erie stockholders has been underwritten. The banking firm of Kidder, Peabody & Co. of Boston, is to carry out the plan, if it is accepted by the shareholders.

Everett P. Wheeler Out of Danger.

Everett P. Wheeler, who has been ill of typhoid fever at his home, 59 Park avenue, was reported to be out of danger last night.

PLOT TO CHEAT INSURANCE CO.

Loan Broker Takes a Policy on the Life of a Woman Who Threatened Suicide.

TROY, N. Y., Dec. 27.—Lack of nerve and the discovery that she was being deceived, caused Sarah Johnson, a resident of this city, to make disclosures that revealed a plot to defraud an insurance company by suicide. The woman was in poverty and sought aid from J. W. Algase, a loan broker, who advanced her a small sum of money, taking a chattel mortgage on her household effects. She was unable to pay the interest and called at the office of the broker. Payment was demanded at once, whereupon she broke down, declaring that her poverty had rendered her desperate and she wished she was dead, adding that she had serious thoughts of committing suicide.

According to the story told by the woman to Jones & Russell, attorneys, the loan agent proposed that she take a policy on her life before doing such an act, saving at the same time that she might insure for $1,000 and by so doing repay him for his indebtedness by transferring the policy to him. She said that he advanced her more money and obtained a policy on her life in the New York Life Insurance Company. She failed to carry out her part of the agreement and declared that she was told that unless something was done by Nov. 14 the policy would expire.

That date passed and the woman called on the agent of the insurance company and informed him of her inability to make further payments. She was told that the matter had been attended to, that the policy was still in force and that it was for $1,000 instead of $1,000. She thereupon related all the facts connected with the case. The agent was amazed and telegraphed the home office in New York, with the result that representatives were sent to this city to investigate. An attorney from New York and Attorney John C. Buckley of Albany, formerly of the State Department of Insurance, came to this city yesterday, and after making an investigation, they had a conference with Commissioner of Public Safety Coyle at which Algase was present. It was decided to settle the matter so as to avoid publicity, and the policy was given to the representatives of the company and cancelled. The woman received a cash gratuity.

Consolidated Exchange to Make Merry.

A holiday entertainment for the members of the Consolidated Exchange and their friends will be given at the Exchange this afternoon. There will be a concert at 1 o'clock by the Eighth Regiment Band, followed by a vaudeville show.

ACCOUNTS OPENED WITH EVERYBODY

CAREY & SIDES

LARGEST CREDIT CLOTHIERS AND TAILORS

The money power is not so big a factor in the financial world as the credit power. We satisfy the average purchaser with suitable terms and that's our strongest power.

MEN'S AND BOYS'

CLOTHING & CREDIT

READY MADE AND TO ORDER.

[illegible]

80-82 4th Ave., Just Above 10th St.

BLINDED HER WITH RED PEPPER.

Dressmaker's Assailant Hid Near Her Room—She Accuses a Young Man.

Red pepper was thrown into the eyes of Miss Bridget Murray, a dressmaker, 28 years old, of 189 Eagle street, Greenpoint, on Thursday night at the top of a flight of stairs near her rooms. The hall was dark, the gaslight having been put out, and she did not see her assailant. The pepper blinded her and she ran screaming downstairs to the flat of the housekeeper. Her screams brought neighbors and Policeman Dwyer of the Greenpoint avenue station, who sent for an ambulance.

Miss Murray declared that the only person she suspected was Charles Hartfield, aged 21, who lived with his mother on the same floor of the house. "A week ago," she said, "on my return from work in the evening I found Hartfield in my rooms. He told me he had quarreled with his mother and asked me to let him stay in my apartments. I refused, but he declined to go and when I threatened to call a policeman he said he would get even with me."

Hartfield was found in his mother's rooms and denied the assault. He was arrested and held on the charge of assault in the second degree. Miss Murray declined to go to a hospital, although she could not see.

Assisted by a friend, she appeared in the Lewis street police court yesterday to prosecute Hartfield. The Magistrate held Hartfield in $500. Miss Murray became so ill in court that she was taken to St. Catherine's Hospital.

WILL OF MRS. LUCY E. STODDARD.

Nephew and Niece Get Half Residuary Estate—Other Half for Husband and Son.

The will of Mrs. Lucy E. Stoddard, who died at her home, 56 Pierrepont street, on Dec. 20, was filed for probate in Brooklyn yesterday. The estate is valued at $30,000. She bequeaths the Pierrepont street house and all its contents to her son Caswell Wheeler Stoddard, who is 17 years old. She leaves her cousin, Anna D. Wheeler, who lived with her, an annuity of $1,000. To her nephew, Philip Manchester Wheeler, and her niece, Agenia Willett Wheeler, who also lived with her she leaves the half of the residuary estate, the other half being left in trust for her husband, John H. Stoddard and her son, Caswell W. Stoddard. John H. Stoddard, Caswell W. Stoddard and Philip Manchester Wheeler are named as executors.

LINDENTHAL REPLIES.

Declares He Never Said Work on Blackwell's Island Bridge Would Be Stopped.

Gustav A. Lindenthal, who is to be Bridge Commissioner in the new administration, had this to say yesterday relative to the charges made at a Long Island City mass meeting that he was going to delay the construction of the Blackwell's Island Bridge in the interest of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company's tunnel under the East River.

"The experience of my predecessor in trying to get the Blackwell's Island Bridge built should be a warning to me. I intend to do all in my power to have the Blackwell's Island Bridge built at the earliest possible moment, but I will not be responsible for the conditions of the contracts for the bridge, which were made by my predecessor. I am informed that the contract for the Blackwell's Island Bridge was made with the Pennsylvania Bridge Company, which is a subsidiary company of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and that the contract for the Queensboro Bridge was made with the Pennsylvania Bridge Company, which is a subsidiary company of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. I am informed that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company is trying to delay the construction of the Blackwell's Island Bridge in the interest of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company's tunnel under the East River.

"I am informed that my predecessor in trying to get the Blackwell's Island Bridge built had trouble with the Pennsylvania Bridge Company. I am informed that the Blackwell's Island Bridge will be completed, if the conditions of the contract are fulfilled, by the Pennsylvania Bridge Company, which is a subsidiary company of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company is trying to delay the construction of the Blackwell's Island Bridge in the interest of its tunnel under the East River. I am informed that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company is trying to get the Blackwell's Island Bridge built in the interest of its tunnel under the East River. I am informed that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company is trying to delay the construction of the Blackwell's Island Bridge