

THE HOOKER INVESTIGATION.

BALL'S BRIBERY STORY DENIED BY THE MEN HE ACCUSED.

Witness FBI on the Stand in an Effort to Prove That the Root of the Hooker-Stearns Building to the Government for a Post-Office Was Not Excessive.

ALBANY, March 31.—At today's session of the Assembly Judiciary Committee the attorneys for Judge Hooker put on the stand several witnesses who were called to testify that the rent of \$1,150 a year for the first floor of the Hooker-Stearns building was not excessive. All said it was not excessive for post-office purposes, but under cross-examination by former Deputy Attorney-General Henry B. Corman none of them admitted that any private business interest would pay that rent for the building.

Daniel F. Tooman, a Dunkirk newspaper publisher, after telling John B. Stanchfield on direct examination that the rental was a direct examination of the stand which was not excessive for post-office purposes, but under cross-examination by former Deputy Attorney-General Henry B. Corman none of them admitted that any private business interest would pay that rent for the building.

Mr. Tooman could not satisfactorily explain what had caused him to change his opinion.

William C. Hudson, the Brooklyn newspaper man who, according to testimony of Frank P. Ball, was present when George E. Tiffany offered to have Ball released from a \$2,500 note to former Postmaster Taylor if he would "give up" something to cause the removal of Justice Hooker from the bench, told about going to Dunkirk to find out whether the government had demanded of Taylor the money that had been paid Ball as a bribe in the Fredonia post office.

Mr. Hudson denied that Justice Woodward had posted him on a list of names of people who could tell him something of interest to Justice Woodward. He said he saw Justice Woodward on two occasions seeking information regarding the raising of rents for New York post offices.

George E. Tiffany testified that he remembered the visit he had made to Ball with Hudson and Taylor, but he denied that at that time he had told Ball that he would see that he was released from his \$2,500 note to Taylor if he would give up something that would cause the removal of Justice Hooker from the bench.

On cross-examination Tiffany said that he had been to Justice Hooker's office in New York four years ago, when Hooker had told him that he was naming another as postmaster of Fredonia after the appointment had been granted to him.

Tiffany was subjected to a severe cross-examination at the hands of Lewis Carr, the attorney for Edward Harriman's DeWitt and Hudson. Carr asked Tiffany about his financial dealings with Judge Hooker.

Mr. Carr went at Tiffany without mercy. Tiffany testified that he had heard rumors that Edward B. Potter had a large share in some of the lands owned by Ball to cover the note of \$2,500 and had offered to procure Ball a lawyer to contest the payment of it if he would take care of his financial dealings with Judge Hooker.

"So that he would tell the truth," was the reply. "The truth as you wished it told?" "No, the truth that was the truth," rejoined the witness.

"You mean your version of the truth?" "No, the entire truth as the truth should be." "Didn't you think he would tell the truth, according to your views, without such an offer?"

"I didn't think he had told the truth, the entire truth." Mr. Carr demanded to know from whom he had heard the report that Justice Hooker held a mortgage on Ball's land. The witness did not want to answer, so he said it would make bad feelings between Ball and his most intimate friend. Finally he answered that Edward B. Potter had told him. Potter and Ball had been very close friends while Potter was the ticket agent at the Fredonia station.

An adjournment was taken until next Wednesday morning. It is expected that not more than another day will be required to complete the testimony. The week will be taken to study the testimony, which is more than likely that it will be three weeks or longer before the committee reports to the Assembly.

IT'S SQUARE!

J. H. SMITH'S RAILROAD PARTY.

Plans to Take Friends in Special Train Through Central America.

According to the Madison Herald, an edition of a house party on wheels, personally conducted by James Henry Smith, is to start soon from New York bound for Central America with a roving commission to search for pleasure.

Mr. Smith made through Mexico was taken to spy out the land and prepare the way for a special train which will carry the roving house party, and adds:

"If the Vera Cruz and Pacific will haul the special train, the party will be taken by rail as far south as the Pan-American is now built, and at Tonala a yacht will be in waiting to carry them south, probably to Panama. If difficulty is experienced in getting the heavy train over the Vera Cruz and Pacific the yacht will be boarded at Vera Cruz."

"It is estimated that the trip will be the costliest of the kind ever made and will probably cost at least \$400,000 in gold. The trip will last nearly a month and will be taken by twenty of Mr. Smith's New York friends."

Dr. Seward Webb is credited with being the originator of the railway house party. He took a party of eighteen friends across the continent three or four years ago from New York to Mexico by train and back in a special train, consisting of a baggage car, dining car, parlor car and two sleeping cars.

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TO STOP FRANCHISE HOLD-UPS

BILL TO COMPEL ACTION BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

Amendments to Rains Law Reported to the Senate—Assembly Passes Bill Prohibiting the Selling of Theatre Tickets at a Higher Price Than Advertised.

ALBANY, March 31.—Assemblyman Prentice today took a hand in the endeavor to secure legislation which will prevent the New York city Board of Aldermen holding up the granting of public franchises. He is not in favor of taking the authority to grant such franchises away from the Board of Aldermen altogether, as is proposed by the Elsterg-Stanley bills. He believes rather that the charter should be changed so as to compel action by the Board of Aldermen, both as regards ordinary franchises and franchises suggested by the Rapid Transit Commission.

Mr. Prentice today introduced two bills to accomplish this purpose. Section 74 of the charter provides that before any franchise to use a street is granted by the Board of Aldermen it shall be embodied in the form of an ordinance which shall be introduced by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and be referred by the Board of Aldermen to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, which shall make inquiry as to the manner of the franchise and the adequacy of the compensation to be paid therefor.

One of the Prentice bills amends section 74 by providing that the Board of Estimate and Apportionment shall not refer to the City Clerk shall, on the day after its introduction, forward to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, which shall make inquiry as to the manner of the franchise and the adequacy of the compensation to be paid therefor.

The Rapid Transit act provides that when the Rapid Transit Commission have determined upon a plan of construction of a railway they shall transmit the plan to the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, which shall make inquiry as to the manner of the franchise and the adequacy of the compensation to be paid therefor.

The other Prentice bill amends section 5 of the Rapid Transit act by changing the time within which the Board of Estimate and Apportionment shall make inquiry as to the manner of the franchise and the adequacy of the compensation to be paid therefor.

The Senate Committee on Taxation has reported favorably the amendments to the Rains law introduced last night by the author of that law. One of the amendments is to give the Board of Aldermen the right to remove a franchise if it is found to be in violation of the law.

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ONESIDED HILPRECHT QUIZ.

ASSYRIOLOGISTS HERE HAVE NOT BEEN ASKED TO TESTIFY.

Backers of Dr. Peters in His Charges Against the Pennsylvania Professor Say the Committee Should Have Been Made Up of Men Without Bias.

In the archeological branch of Assyrian studies there was a continuation in Philadelphia yesterday of the ex parte proceedings to determine whether or not Dr. Herman Volpert Hilprecht has offended against the Assyriological code. The inquiry was conducted behind closed doors; no reporters were admitted, and as on the preceding days, not a particle of information could be gleaned from Provost Harrison of the university or any of the other members of the jury at the finish.

The jury, which itself an investigation committee, comprises Chairman J. Levering Jones, a lawyer and a member of the board of trustees of Dr. Hilprecht's department, to whom Dr. Hilprecht said he would submit his defence on his return from the West; Provost Harrison, Vice-Provost Robert Smith, Samuel P. Houston, Dr. Edgar G. LeConte and Joseph S. Harris. All these men are connected either with the faculty or the board of trustees of the archeological department of the University of Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia papers yesterday denied a rumor that Dr. Hilprecht was to resign his office as curator of the department of Assyriology. The rumor said he had no intention of resigning, but that he would offer his resignation for Constantine, where he is one of the curators of the Ottoman Imperial Museum, until the hearing was ended.

Neither Dr. John B. Peters, rector of St. Michael's Church, this city, who brought the charges against Prof. Hilprecht, Prof. Prince of Columbia and Prof. Harper of the University of Chicago, nor any of the five reprobated Dr. Hilprecht's department, who resigned on account of them, has been asked to present his testimony before the investigation committee. Dr. Ward of the Independent said yesterday:

"I am not disposed to accuse J. Levering Jones, the chairman of the committee, of bias in Dr. Hilprecht's favor. I know from the papers that Mr. Jones was in the West until recently, and that Dr. Hilprecht had not returned to Philadelphia until immediately upon his return and would publish it, provided Mr. Jones approved it. Since Mr. Jones has been back several days, and the charges have not been published, it is reasonable to infer that it did not meet his approval."

"Similarly, Dr. Hilprecht declared soon after the opening of the controversy that he would establish the authenticity of the Temple of Bel, said to have been found at Nippur by the digging prints of six or eight feet of tablets. He has not done so, and it is not reasonable to make a similar inference."

"I know very little about the investigation committee, but to my mind, if there is to be an investigation, it should be conducted by two or three eminent scientists and two of those experienced in various parts of the country who have had any personal connection with the controversy."

Prof. Prince of Columbia heartily agreed with Dr. Ward's idea of an investigation. "I am not a principal party to the controversy," said Prof. Prince. "I have simply gone to Philadelphia, examined tablets and reported on them. I am in touch with Dr. Peters and I know that neither he nor the committee has been requested to appear before the so-called investigation committee in Philadelphia."

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THE PLUM TREE

A NEW NOVEL BY DAVID GRAHAM PHILLIPS

AUTHOR OF "THE COST," "GOLDEN FLEECE," ETC.

SENATOR DEPEW "Well written and dramatic, as might be expected from the pen of Phillips."

SENATOR FRYE "The Plum Tree" is a wonderful story of American political life.

SENATOR BEVERIDGE "Plot, action, color, vitality, make 'The Plum Tree' thrilling."

AT THE BOOKSELLERS THE BOBBS-MERRILL CO., Publishers.

RACE TO MAKE A RAID. Schmittberger Won Over Eggers's Men—"Overgrown Handbook."

Inspector Schmittberger beat Sgt. Eggers by a nose in a poolroom raid last night. Eggers, who commands the Fifth street precinct, where the raid took place, was left at the First avenue police station, charged with the police. He says, "They returned with three prisoners."

"You can't do two things at once," said McDermott's men, who were a little sore at a raid over the captain's head. "We'd have got those fellows, all right."

Detectives Ross, Lemon, Smith and Stapleton of Schmittberger's staff made their raid at about 3:15 on a cigar store kept by Bartles and Whitely at 130 Third avenue. They got what McDermott's men say is a sort of overgrown handbook, hardly big enough to be called a poolroom. Over the cigar store is a tailor's shop, and the police say the tailor's worker was hidden away in the rear of that. There were about twenty men in the cigar store, and some of them were constantly running up and down the stairs. Ten men got away and the names of ten more were taken by the police. William Bartles, one of the cigar store proprietors, and Patrick Kelly of 176 First avenue were arrested, charged with running the game after Ross had placed a bet on Stowaway in the first race at Benning.

At a moment after the arrests, Roundman Jackson of Eggers's Headquarters staff marched in—too late.

When Bartles was taken away his daughter attended the sale of cigars, but the police took away a telephone and some racing sheets. Bartles was arrested on a similar charge by Capt. McDermott four weeks ago. The case he had just started his game. The police said that it is only a question now of whether the captain, the inspector or Eggers is the first to learn of the poolroom that starts, so close is the espionage in the precinct.

Mearwhile Detectives Butler, Moran and Wasserman of McDermott's precinct were in William H. Daly's 208 Second avenue and Charles Thieret of 214 East Eleventh street. They assert that they saw Thieret make a five dollar handout to William H. Daly on Tuesday night. This was in a saloon at 23 Third avenue. The men were charged with violating the section of the penal code which prohibits gaming. There was a little scrap here at the conclusion of which George Fitzpatrick of 245 First-second street was arrested for interfering with an officer.

Capt. McDermott himself was at Police Headquarters during all the excitement.

LOVING CUPS FOR COPS. From Brooklyn Captains to Inspector McLaughlin—Synagogue Testimonials.

Commissioner McAdoo has given permission to the Brooklyn police captains to present a loving cup to Inspector P. H. McLaughlin, who will retire on May 1. The inspector will practically leave the force about April 10, as he will take his vacation about that time. He was borough inspector in Brooklyn before Cross went over there.

The Commissioner has also given Inspector Max Schmittberger permission to accept from the Congressmen Adolph Jacobson of their appreciation of his police arrangements during the congregate moved its sacred relics to its old synagogue headquarters street, to its new one, at 58 Livingston street, on Sept. 5.

Capt. John W. O'Connor will receive with the Commissioner's permission a testimonial of appreciation of the way he handled the crowds at the funeral of Moses Singer, which took place in the Delancey street precinct, to which Capt. O'Connor has recently returned.

CHIEF OF POLICE DAVIS Of Panama—McAdoo Chooses Old Time New York Detective.

Samuel Davis, formerly a detective- sergeant on the New York police force, who resigned in 1902, has got the job as chief of police for Panama through the efforts of Commissioner McAdoo. The Council of the republic here asked Mr. McAdoo to recommend a good man. Davis spent his early life in New Mexico and speaks Spanish. He has had a good deal of police experience in various parts of the country and was a detective in Denver before he came to New York.

It took a long time to get a suitable man, says Commissioner Davis, who was searched the place another candidate appeared.

CRIME AT LOW EBB. Detective Bureau Has Nothing to Do for Days, Says McAdoo.

Commissioner McAdoo says that the number of complaints and reports of crime reaching Police Headquarters is showing a marked decrease.

"The falling off as compared with last year is remarkable," he said yesterday. "Of course, I am gratified. I take it that it means the police are doing good work. Frequently now we have hardly a thing to do in the Detective Bureau all day. And this despite the fact that many people feared a closing of poolrooms would throw out on the streets a large number of men who had no legitimate calling and would turn to crime. This has not been the effect apparently."

"SILVER PLATE THAT WEARS" Wedding Silver For gifts, select silver of proven quality. Spoons, Forks, Knives, etc., should bear the trade mark.

"1847 ROGERS BROS." It betokens the kind of silver that lasts through generations. In buying tea sets, baking dishes, water pitchers, etc., if you want quality, ask for the goods of MERIDEN BRITA CO.

NOTABLE PAINTINGS

American Art Galleries

MADISON SQUARE SOUTH, NEW YORK. On Free View Day and Evening, 9 A. M. to 6 P. M., 8 to 10 P. M.

An Important Collection OF NOTABLE PAINTINGS of the Early English, French and Dutch Schools including SUPERB PORTRAITS of Historic and Artistic Interest Belonging to Mr. T. J. Blakeslee.

The following distinguished artists are represented: Bol Bellotto, Beechey, Canaletto, Constable, Cosway, Copley Fielding, De Vos, De Keyser, De Gelder, Flinck, Gainsborough, Hopper, Henner, Lawrence, Lely, Largilliere, Morland, Mignard, Madrazo, Mytens, Merle, Nattier, Opie, Pourbus, Reynolds, Romney, Rigaud, Stanfield, Stark, Shee, Thaulow, Van Dyck, Van der Helst, Victors, Van Loo, Van den Esckhout, Wilson.

To Be Sold at Unrestricted Public Sale AT MENDELSSOHN HALL On Thursday and Friday Evenings Next, April 6th and 7th. The Sale Will be Conducted by Mr. Thomas E. Kirby, of THE AMERICAN ART ASSOCIATION, Managers, 6 East 23d Street, Madison Square South, New York.

TO SEEK MRS. EADE'S MURDERER. Positive Identification of the Body of the Woman Found in Walkill River.

MADISON, N. Y., March 31.—The body of the woman found floating in the Walkill river at Sunda was again positively identified to-day as that of Mamie Stuart Eade, wife of William Eade of Walden. The identification was made by Mrs. Julia Crans and Miss Jennie Eade, sisters of William Eade, who went to Newburgh from Gardiner on Wednesday night after having identified the body, came to Modena to-day, where the body was to be buried, and made his former identification more positive.

"There isn't a bit of doubt about it," he said. "It is the body of my wife Mamie." Since the identification of the body was made positive this morning the police have turned their attention with renewed energy to solving the mystery of the murder. The very last seen of Mrs. Eade so far as any one remembers knows, was on Jan. 5, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, when she left the home of Mrs. Julia Crans, and was seen to go through Montgomery street in Walden in the direction of the bridge over the Walkill River. From that time she has been missing.

The police and legal machinery of Orange county will now be put in action, and it has become evident that the murder was committed in that jurisdiction. Nevertheless, District Attorney Traver of Ulster county, where the body was found, is still working on the case, and has had the ring and comb of the dead woman brought to his office at Kingston.

When Mrs. Julia Crans and Miss Jennie Eade first viewed the body they thought it was not their sister-in-law, although they said the teeth resembled hers.

Coroner Hasbrouck arrived as the women were leaving the morgue. He had with him the only sister-in-law, although they said the teeth resembled hers.

It is Mamie, poor Mamie," sobbed Mrs. Crans. "I know her teeth, the shoes, the hair and the waist. The waist was brown, and there is the brown under the collar, while the rest has turned green in the water. It was Jan. 5 I saw her last. She came to dinner at my house on Montgomery street, Walden, and told me she'd left her husband. She was going to Newburgh to see her sister. She said she'd ask me to come along. It was drizzling rain, so I didn't go. That was about 3 o'clock, and I never saw her or heard from her again."

THE PEOPLE'S LINE announce to patrons the resumption of its passenger and express freight service TO ALBANY Monday, April 3d The new, superb steamer "C. W. MORSE" and the elegant and popular "ADIRONDACK" will provide throughout the season a swift and safe service, accompanied by every comfort and luxury known to steamboat travel.

Steamers leave Pier 32, North River, week days only, at 6 P. M. Direct connections at Albany with trains for all points North, East and West.

ART SALES AND EXHIBITIONS. THE ANDERSON AUCTION CO. Successors to Batts & Co. 6 W. 29th St., New York. Geo. D. Morse, Auctioneer. Sale on FRIDAY Evening, April 7th, at 7:30. A Choice Collection of Engravings, Illustrations, Specimens of Baroque, etc., etc.

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