The Sun.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1908.
Fair and not so cold to-day; cloudy to-morrow and snow by afternoon or night; fresh northeasterly winds.

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TO INVESTIGATE ROOSEVELT

AND HIS ALLEGED USE OF PATRONAGE FOR TAFT.

President Characterizes the Charge as "an Unqualified Lie," but Some Senators Would Like to Have the Evidence and May Move for an Official Inquiry.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—In spite of assertions to the contrary, put out from Administration sources, members of the Senate and the House of Representatives continue to insist that Federal patronage is being used to further the candidacy of Secretary Taft for the Presidential nomination. From what was said at the Capitol to-day it is probable that a resolution calling for an investigation of these charges by a special committee will be offered shortly in the Senate.

President Roosevelt has inspired a statement that the charge that he is misusing Federal patronage in Mr. Taft's behalf "is an unqualified lie," and the additional information is furnished from the White House that this statement is contained in a letter written to a close friend of Mr. Roosevelt in Indiana. It is supposed that this close friend is William Dudley Foulke of Richmond, former chairman of the Civil Service Commission.

Senators and Representatives who contend that they have ground for the belief that the allegations are justified are answering this inspired announcement with the challenge: "If it is an unqualified lie we should like to have certain things explained." In order to get the desired explanation the resolution calling for an investigation will be introduced unless the Republican leaders determine that it is bad politics.

It is said in behalf of the President that he is willing and anxious to submit to the most searching inquiry as to what has been done with regard to filling offices which he is charged with using to help along the Taft boom. From the White House the announcement is made that the President is perfectly willing to give to any unprejudiced person all the information desired with regard to specific charges of the misuse of patronage. Curiously enough, it is not asserted by those who put faith in the allegations that Secretary Taft is a party to the alleged scheme to help his cause, or, in fact, that Mr. Taft has any knowledge of what is being done. The Senate, however, is convinced, apparently, that Federal appointments are being made with particular reference to the helpful effect that they will have on Mr. Taft's candidacy, and that this conviction exists has been shown by the Senate's action in rejecting the nominations of four Ohio postmasters and a pension agent at Concord, N. H.

In justification of Senator Foraker's action in having the nominations of the postmasters in his own State rejected it is argued that the men nominated were indorsed by Senator Foraker, but the Administration declined to appoint them on the ground that the incumbents of the offices for which they were named had given efficient administrations and should not be removed. But, according to those who side with Senator Foraker, this position of the Administration was abandoned as soon as the men indorsed by Senator Foraker came out for Taft and used their influence in Ohio to bring about the indorsement of Taft's candidacy by Republican county committees and other party organizations.

In the case of the pension agent at Concord, N. H., the two New Hampshire Senators submitted two names, and, it is asserted, informed the President that they left the choice to him. The President, however (and this is admitted at the White House), called on Winston Churchill to name somebody for the place. Mr. Churchill named Charles Fairbanks, and it was his nomination which the Senate rejected. Mr. Churchill is for Taft.

The answer of the President to the charges of the misuse of Federal patronage in Mr. Taft's behalf is that not only are these charges "unqualified lies" but that he has gone out of his way to appoint men to Federal offices who are actively working in support of the candidates of other Republican aspirants for the Presidency than Taft. An instance is given where a man in Oklahoma who is a Cannon boomer was appointed; another where a friend of Knox was appointed to an office in a Northwestern State.

The statement is inspired from the White House that four-fifths of the Federal officeholders in Ohio are working against Taft and that their conduct has been so indiscreet that an investigation by the Civil Service Commission has been ordered. In the same inspired quarter it is declared that more than half of the Federal officeholders in New York are at work for Gov. Hughes and that Edward S. Fowler, who was appointed recently to be Collector of Customs for the Port of New York, is an anti-Taft man.

William Dudley Ffoulke heard so much about the charges that the President was misusing Federal patronage that he came to Washington to make a personal investigation. He saw President Roosevelt, Secretary Taft and others connected with the Administration, and as a result of his inquiries has challenged the critics of the President's alleged course to name a single officeholder who has been coerced into supporting Taft or removed because he was not for Taft. Mr. Ffoulke says that if any criticism can be made of the President it is that he has not removed men who have systematically used the time which belonged to the public in promoting the booms of candidates other than Taft. He asserts that Joseph B. Kealing, the United States District Attorney for Indiana, who Mr. Ffoulke calls the "Prime Minister of the Fairbanks movement," has been away from his office for weeks promoting the aspirations of the Vice-President. He calls for the name of any Federal official who has been supporting Taft in similar fashion and asks if it is not true that the bulk of Indiana's officials appointed through the influence of the Indiana machine have been supporting Fairbanks.

It is asserted that Mr. Ffoulke suggested to the President that he remove District Attorney Kealing because of his activity for Fairbanks. The President sent a representative of the Department of Justice to Indiana to investigate Kealing's reported conduct. While this was in progress Capt. Seth Bullock of Deadwood, S. D., the President's close friend and hunting companion, came to Washington, and it is said that he brought with him some letters captured by him that had been sent by Kealing to people in South Dakota urging them to get busy for the Fairbanks boom. But the President met the demands of the political head hunters with the statement that whatever Mr. Kealing's conduct might have been allowance should be made for the fact that he was surcharged with State pride and the enthusiasm for the Vice-President's candidacy that springs like poetry unbidden from the Hoosier breast. It is declared that the President has said that it would appear ungracious to behead Mr. Fairbanks's political Warwick.

"KINGSCOTE" BURNED.

Handsome House Opposite "Georgian Court" at Lakewood Destroyed.

Kingscote, the residence of Henry Lloyd Herbert, the wealthy coal dealer, at Lakewood, N. J., was destroyed by fire last night. The handsome structure, which was built by George J. Gould seven years ago and presented to his son Kingdon, was enveloped in flames long before the volunteer fire department arrived on the scene and in less than two hours nothing but the walls were standing.

Mr. Herbert, who is a noted fox hunter, a charter member of the Meadow Brook Hunt Club and who was one of the judges at the last national horse show at Madison Square Garden, was in the house with Mrs. Herbert and the servants when the fire started. They all set to work and tried to save the rare furniture in the drawing room and the parlors, but the flames spread with such rapidity that only a few pieces were carried out of the house, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert and the servants being forced to flee to save themselves.

The fire was caused by the blowing out of an electric fuse in an elevator shaft on the second floor and defective insulation. Several of the servants heard the report as the fuse blew out, and by the time they started to investigate the woodwork in the elevator shaft had caught fire. The servants formed a bucket brigade and poured water down the shaft, but the flames spread to the flooring and soon swept through the second story.

Kingscote is directly opposite Georgian Court, George J. Gould's Lakewood home, and the rumor spread that Mr. Gould's house was in flames. All the hotel guests and the residents of Lakewood flocked to the scene and watched Kingscote burn to the ground. The volunteer firemen were unable to cope with the flames from the start and finally centred their efforts on protecting Georgian Court, which was in danger of catching fire from the shower of sparks that arose from the burning house.

Kingscote, which is said to have cost $500,000, was uninsured. It was of Colonial style of architecture and very like Georgian Court. It was three stories high and built of red brick and white terra cotta. Mr. Herbert got it from the Goulds about three years ago, when he gave up his town house in New York and took up his residence in Lakewood.

Mr. Herbert is chairman of the Polo Association and often rides after the hounds with the Monmouth County Hunt Club.

CONFERENCE ON STEEL PRICES.

Important Meetings of Producers Held in This City.

Important meetings of men representing the steel and iron ore interests of the country were held in this city yesterday. The first meeting was in the afternoon at the offices of the United States Steel Corporation, 71 Broadway. About forty officers of the largest steel companies in the country, including all of the United States Steel Corporation's subsidiary companies, attended.

The purpose of the meeting was to reach some decision in the trade in regard to the advisability of reducing the prices of steel products. There has recently been a big cut in the price of pig iron and the steel trade has been fast approaching a condition of deadlock. The consumers have been holding off for lower prices and the producers have been standing out against a reduction. The conditions as they have developed recently have threatened a deadlock similar to that which existed last year between the producers and consumers of copper.

It was to talk these conditions over that the producers came together.

The evening meeting was held in the Astor Gallery of the Waldorf. About seventy representatives of the steel and iron ore trade attended. J. P. Morgan was there. Judge Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the United States Steel Corporation, presided. A statement will probably be made to-day telling of the results of the conference.

Some of the steel men were in conference in Pittsburg before they came on to New York.

VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

Help Their Chances to Be Real Ones by Saving a Woman.

Arthur Haggerty and Charles Smith, who live at the Whitney Hotel, 463 Hudson street, and whose names are on the Civil Service list for appointment to the Fire Department, got a chance to show their skill last night by rescuing Mrs. John L. Adams, the wife of a grocery keeper at 460 Hudson street, from burning to death.

Haggerty and Smith were standing across the street when they saw the grocery store window collapse and heard screams. They found Mrs. Adams in the back room of the store enveloped in flames. Haggerty threw his overcoat over her and Smith knocked the head off a bottle of olive oil and eased her sufferings.

Mrs. Adams had gone to the stove to get warm. When her dress caught fire she threw a weight at the window pane to attract attention. She is in a serious condition at St. Vincent's Hospital.

EXTORTION AT HEADQUARTERS?

Prisoner Says He Paid $1 for Candle, 50 Cents for Newspaper.

James F. Mendel, who says he lives at the Everett House, was held in $1,000 bail by Magistrate Butts in the Tombs police court yesterday charged with passing bad checks in the summer of 1906. Mendel's lawyer, Samuel Goldstein, told the Magistrate that his client had been treated shamefully at Police Headquarters.

"Mr. Mendel while locked up at Police Headquarters was forced to pay $1 for a two cent candle, $2 for a telegram and 50 cents apiece for two newspapers," said the lawyer.

"I advise you to make a complaint to Commissioner Bingham," said the Magistrate.

SEABOARD FLORIDA LIMITED SERVICE. Best to Pinehurst, Camden, Columbia, Florida. Shortest Route. Office, 1143 Broadway.—Adv.

OLIVER LODGE, SPIRITUALIST

EMINENT SCIENTIST SURE HE GOT MESSAGES FROM DEAD.

Tests Made Through Mrs. Piper and Mrs. Verrall Convince Him That Mediums Are Controlled, and Intelligence Survives Death and Speaks to the Living.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 30.—Serious statements by Sir Oliver Lodge command respectful attention even when he abandons science for mysticism. It was therefore with something like amazement rather than scepticism that a meeting of the Psychical Research Society to-day heard the distinguished scientist practically affirm that communications were received from the dead in secret and exhaustive tests recently conducted by certain members of that society through spiritualistic mediums, or automatists, as Sir Oliver called them.

Several automatists were concerned in the tests, the most notable being Mrs. Piper and Mrs. Verrall. Sir Oliver described Mrs. Piper as one whose fame spread to all lands and who had been under strict supervision and competent management for the greater part of her physical life. Mrs. Verrall he designated as "one of our sanest and acutest investigators." Referring to what happened at the séances Sir Oliver said:

"The most important set of phenomena are those of automatic writing and talking, and what do we find? We find the late Edmund Gurney, the late Richard Hodgson and the late F. W. H. Myers, with others less known, constantly purporting to communicate with us, with the express purpose of patiently proving their identity by giving us cross correspondence between different mediums.

"We also find them answering specific questions in a manner characteristic of their known personalities and giving evidence of knowledge appropriate to them. Not easily or early do we make this admission. In spite of long conversations with what purports to be the surviving intelligence of these friends and investigators, we were by no means convinced of their identity by more general conversation, even when it was of a friendly and intimate character, such as in ordinary case would have been considered amply sufficient for identification of friends speaking, say, through the telephone or typewriter.

"We required definite and crucial proof, a proof difficult even to imagine as well as difficult to supply. The ostensible communicators realize the need of such proof as fully as we do and have done their best to satisfy the rational demand. Some of us think they succeeded. Others are still doubtful.

"Cross correspondence—that is, the reception of part of a message through one medium and part through another, neither portion separately being understood by either—is good evidence of one intelligence dominating both automatists, and if the message is characteristic of some particular deceased person and is received as such by people to whom he was not intimately known, then it is fair proof of the continued intellectual activity of that person.

"If, further, we get from him a piece of literary criticism which is eminently in his vein, which has not occurred to ordinary people, then I say the proof, already striking, is tending to become crucial. These are the kinds of proof which the society has had communicated to it. The phenomenon of automatic writing strikes some of us as if it were in the direct line of evolutional advance. It seems like the beginning of a new human faculty.

"First of all the evidence led us to realize the truth of telepathy, and that was the first chapter of the new volume we set ourselves to explore.

"I am going," Sir Oliver continued impressively, "to assume in fact that our bodies can under certain exceptional circumstances be controlled directly or be temporarily possessed by another or foreign intelligence operating either on the whole or some limited part of it. The question lying behind such an hypothesis, and justifying it or negativing it, is the root question of identity, the identity of the control.

"Some control undoubtedly exists, and it is not the normal consciousness of the person owning the body. Every one who knows anything about the matter is quite certain that this question of identity is a fundamental one. The controlling spirit proves its identity mainly by reproducing the speech or writing facts which belong to his memory, not the automatist's memory.

"Proof of identity will usually depend on the memory of trifles. The objection raised that communications too often relate to trivial subjects shows lack of intelligence or at least is due to lack of thought on the part of the critic. Our object is to get not something dignified but something evidential, and what evidence of persistent memory can be better than the recollection of trifling incidents which for some personal reason happen to have made a permanent impression?"

Sir Oliver elaborated at some length his reasons for attaching importance to trifles, and in the course of his concluding statements said:

"Like excavators boring a tunnel from opposite ends amid the roar of water and other noises, we are beginning to hear now and again the strokes of the pickaxes of our comrades on the other side. The boundary between the present and future states is still substantial, but it is wearing thin in places."

The society intends to publish a full account of the tests to which Sir Oliver referred. It will be recalled that F. W. H. Myers was a brilliant literary man and a leading member of the society, who died in 1901, shortly before the publication of his greatest work dealing with the survival of human personality after bodily death. He expressed his intention to try after death the crucial experiment of exerting his own influence upon minds still incarnate.

Warren Introduces Woman Suffrage Bill.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—A resolution proposing a constitutional amendment that the right to vote shall not hereafter be denied or abridged on account of sex was introduced in the Senate to-day by Senator Warren of Wyoming, a State that has woman suffrage and permits women to hold office.

New Orleans, Texas, Mexico & California, Via Southern Ry., A. & W. P., W. of A., L. & N. Lv. N. Y. 12:10 A. M. & 4:25 P. M. Through Pullman and Dining Car service. N. Y. Office, 1200 B'way.—Adv.

NORMA MUNRO SETTLES.

She and Mrs. Leslie Carter Will Exchange Some Jewelry.

Ezra P. Prentice, receiver in bankruptcy for Mrs. Leslie Carter Payne, the actress, has arranged for the settlement of a suit brought in the Supreme Court by Mrs. Carter against Miss Norma L. Munro to recover $41,799 for money loaned, &c. Mr. Prentice has accepted an offer made by Henrietta S. Munro, mother of Norma, to pay $5,000 cash in full settlement, and Miss Munro is to turn over to the receiver a quantity of jewelry now in her possession which was claimed by Mrs. Carter. Other jewelry is to be returned to Miss Munro. The jewelry to be turned over to Mr. Prentice consists of fifteen pieces, among which are diamonds, rings, pins, bracelets, collar, watch chain and cuff links. The jewelry for Miss Munro consists of thirteen pieces, which include rings, bracelets, lockets, pins, chains, cross, chatelaine, rosary and nine trinkets of small value. Mr. Prentice was of the opinion that it was better to accept this settlement than to go on with the lawsuit, as Miss Munro disputed most of the items in the suit, and it was doubtful if a judgment was obtained whether it could be collected. Plaintiff and defendant were once great chums.

BENSEL ON WATER BOARD.

Dock Commissioner Promoted to a $12,000 Life Salary.

Mayor McClellan has appointed Dock Commissioner John A. Bensel a member of the Board of Water Supply to fill the vacancy made by the resignation of J. Edward Simmons. Mr. Simmons, as president of the Chamber of Commerce, submitted to the Mayor yesterday the names of Eben E. Olcott, MacDougall Hawkes and Commissioner Bensel. Within half an hour after Mr. Simmons's letter was received he was formally informed that Mr. Bensel had been appointed to fill the vacancy on the water board.

As Commissioner of Docks Mr. Bensel has been receiving $7,500 a year. His salary as a member of the water board will be $12,000 a year and it will be a life job, because even when the new system for bringing water from the Catskills is completed, which will probably happen in a generation or two, the commission is to have supervisory powers over the new waterworks.

The last act of Mr. Bensel as Dock Commissioner was to sign contracts for $10,000,000 worth of waterfront improvements in South Brooklyn.

ALL LIQUOR LICENSES $1,200.

Commissioner Clement Recommends a Uniform Rate in the Boroughs of This City.

ALBANY, Jan. 30.—Recommendations for a uniform rate for all boroughs of Greater New York for State excise licenses is the feature of the report of Excise Commissioner Maynard N. Clement which went in to the Legislature to-day. The Commissioner recommends a flat rate of $1,200 for all certificates for hotels, restaurants and saloons where liquor is sold to be drunk on the premises and of $750 for all liquor stores where bottled and package goods are sold. Now there is a different rate in every borough, and the change is declared by the Commissioner to be likely to create a tendency toward the reduction of the number of places selling liquor in the residential districts.

Under the present law Manhattan pays for the so-called hotel and saloon certificate $1,200 and for the storekeeper's certificate $750; Brooklyn pays $975 and $600; Bronx $525 and $300; Queens varying prices from $525 to $300 for hotels and saloons and from $300 to $112.50 for stores, and Richmond from $525 to $150 for hotels and saloons and from $300 to $75 for stores.

GOOD SHIP TAFT SUNK.

Steamer That Hit Her Went Right On—All Hands Saved.

A message to the United Wireless Telegraph Company from the Clyde Line steamship Comanche, due at this port to-day from Jacksonville and Charleston, says she picked up at 1 o'clock yesterday morning off the lower North Carolina coast Capt. James T. Fales and nine men of the four masted schooner Helen E. Taft, bound from Baltimore to Galveston. The castaways were in the schooner's yawl and had been adrift about five hours. Capt. Fales said the Taft had been run into by a coastwise steamship, which kept on her course after the accident. The schooner sank twenty minutes after she had been rammed and all hands took to the yawl. No one was hurt and the steamship apparently was not damaged.

The Taft measured 1,197 tons and was built at Thomaston, Me., whence she hailed, in 1904. She was owned by J. B. Crocker of Thomaston.

DROWNED IN PARK RESERVOIR.

Workman Finds Young Woman's Body, Which Has Not Been Identified.

Adolph Weiss, a workman employed in Central Park, found the body of an unknown woman floating in the reservoir near the eastern edge, opposite Ninety-second street, yesterday afternoon. Death had been caused by drowning.

The woman was about 20 years old, 5 feet 4 inches tall, weighed 130 pounds, had dark complexion and black hair and wore a black skirt, white shirt waist and long black coat with white collar and cuffs. She wore a cheap ring with a white stone and two red stones and a pair of cheap earrings with blue stones. She carried a handbag containing nothing but two lead pencils. The body was removed to the Morgue.

LETTER CARRIERS MUST NOT BEG.

Few Do, But Some Do and Lose $100 a Year by It.

For several days Postmaster Morgan has been receiving complaints that letter carriers have been selling tickets, or trying to, for the letter carriers' annual ball. This is in violation of section 750 of the postal laws and regulations, and yesterday Mr. Morgan reissued the order of the Postmaster-General, calling the attention of the employees to the penalty for the offence. The order also forbids the handing to residents of cards bearing holiday greetings or any other solicitations, direct or indirect. Six men in Station Y had their salaries reduced $100 each between Christmas and New Year's for that offence. Mr. Morgan declined to make public the names of the offenders.

MEDAL FOR STOPPING AN AUTO.

Carnegie Award to a Bayonne Truckman Who Prevented a Collision.

Harry Lynch, a young man of Bayonne, has received a Carnegie bravery medal for stopping a runaway automobile belonging to William Witz of Jersey City and in which were seven persons.

Lynch was driving his truck along the Boulevard last July when he saw the machine coming along rapidly and beyond the chauffeur's control. He sprang into it and stopped it just in time to avoid a collision.

A money gift was Mr. Witz's reward to Lynch.

HERO MEDAL TO WRONG MAN?

CARNEGIE COMMISSION'S AWARD FOR A RESCUE PROTESTED.

Witnesses Make Affidavit That Fitz John Porter Saved Miss Pullier From Drowning, After Burns, Who Got the Medal, Had Left Her to Save Himself.

The award by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission last December of a silver medal to J. C. Burns, assistant secretary of the New York Stock Exchange, has been protested by friends of Fitz John Porter, the nineteen-year-old grandson of Major-Gen. Fitz John Porter.

On August 14, 1906, a servant girl, Julie Pullier, employed by S. E. Vernon at Sea Gate, Coney Island, was rescued from drowning there. Participants in this rescue, involving great hazard to all, were Fitz John Porter, Mr. Burns, sixteen-year-old Matthew P. Breen, son of the Magistrate, and a Japanese valet named Inowa. Young Porter is the son of Holbrook Fitz John Porter, an industrial engineer at 1 Madison avenue. At the time of the rescue he was a cripple, a cast having been removed from his leg two days before.

J. N. Jeffares, manager for the Heinz pickle concern at 256 West street, who has filed the protest with Chairman C. L. Taylor of the Carnegie Fund, declares that the awarding of the only medal to Mr. Burns is not only an injustice to Fitz John Porter but indicates a weakness in Mr. Carnegie's hero stimulating system which should be investigated.

"I wasn't looking for any medal," said Mr. Burns yesterday. "A representative of the Carnegie commission came to me last September. I told him my version of the rescue. In December I got the medal."

"Did you save the girl or did young Porter?" he was asked.

"Well, we both did, I guess," he said. "I was with her until she came ashore. So was young Porter."

Magistrate Breen, whose cottage overlooks the scene of the incident and who was there immediately after the rescue, has forwarded several affidavits to Pittsburg to show that young Porter got the worst of it. One is by Charles Holroyd, swimming instructor in Savage's gymnasium, who declares Porter saved the girl and that Mr. Burns and the Japanese, Inowa, both had turned away to save themselves after valiant efforts to rescue her. "It is my opinion," he deposes, "that Mr. Burns and Miss Pullier would both undoubtedly have drowned but for the timely arrival and heroic exertions of Mr. Porter."

Young Porter himself makes an affidavit in which he says: "Then I saw the man (Mr. Burns) leave the woman and swim away. I plunged in and she seized me by the neck and dragged me under. Then commenced a continuous struggle on my part with the woman's arms about my neck in suffocating grasp. Half the time under water, then coming to the surface to breathe I finally got ashore exhausted with the woman."

Matthew P. Breen, Jr., son of the Magistrate, who also went to the rescue, says Burns and the Jap had both left the woman and started ashore when Porter got into the water. Miss Grace Agnes Breen makes a similar affidavit.

Holbrook Fitz John Porter said yesterday that he was firmly convinced an injustice had been done to his son. "I don't care to say anything, as Mr. Taylor, chairman of the Carnegie Fund, is my intimate friend," he said. "But I am assured that a commission has been appointed to go into the entire incident. There is no doubt that Burns thinks that he rescued Miss Pullier. But how get away from such an affidavit as that by Holroyd, the swimming instructor?"

"There is no doubt," said Magistrate Breen, who was on the ground and talked with all hands almost as the incident closed, "that injustice has been done, and we mean to find out whether a Carnegie medal is genuinely representative of heroism or simply a bauble of chance award. We mean at least to find out what the Carnegie medal business means, anyhow."

ONE ON SENATOR LODGE.

Forgot His Telephone Address and Central Wouldn't Give It to Him.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—They are telling this story on Senator Lodge of Massachusetts:

Mr. Lodge went to a dinner party and at its conclusion asked for permission to use his host's telephone to summon his carriage.

"Give me Senator Lodge's house," said Mr. Lodge when Central answered.

"Number, please," responded Central sweetly.

"I have forgotten the number," said Mr. Lodge.

"That is an unlisted number and we have strict orders not to give it to any one," Central explained.

Mr. Lodge was vexed. He told who he was and insisted that he was entitled to be connected with his own telephone, but no amount of persuasion could induce Central to disobey orders. Then Mr. Lodge had an inspiration. He called up the White House, explained his predicament and asked for his own telephone address. He got it promptly.

BERMEL MAY RESIGN.

President of Queens Borough, Under Investigation, to Quit Office, Rumor Says.

Politicians and officeholders in Queens were much interested yesterday in the rumor which went through the borough very rapidly that Joseph Bermel intends to resign as President of Queens Borough. Mr. Bermel's name was brought into the Kissena Park scandal when Special Deputy Attorney-General Vidaver said in open court that the Grand Jury was investigating an action of the State against Joseph Bermel.

The Borough President resigned as chairman of the Democratic county committee a few days ago, giving as his reason that ill health and a multiplicity of other duties prevented him from continuing in that office. It is said also that he desires to join the Catholic pilgrimage to Rome next April.

It is expected that those Queens county politicians, go-betweens and land speculators who were connected with the Kissena Park sale will learn to-morrow whom the Grand Jury has accused in the matter. Three or more indictments are said to have been found.

ICE BRIDGE AT NIAGARA FALLS. See it. The frost effects are beautiful. Direct routes. New York Central and West Shore.—Adv.

JUDGE GOING TO WORKHOUSE.

"Golden Rule" Magistrate to See How Men He Sentences Live.

TOLEDO, Ohio, Jan. 30.—Charging himself with curiosity and pleading guilty to the charge, Police Judge James Austin, Jr., known as the Golden Rule Judge, sentenced himself to a term of one day in the workhouse in order to discover how the many men he has sent there live.

Judge Austin says he wants no favors while in the institution other than those shown an ordinary prisoner. He has not decided on the day, but says he will begin his sentence soon.

He will be taken to the workhouse in the patrol wagon and will do any labor assigned to the men he has sentenced.

WOMEN OPPOSE BABY RAFFLE.

Threaten to Enjoin Scheme to Give Away a Six-Weeks-Old Child.

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 30.—Women in Minneapolis are banding together to compel the manager of a local theatre to abandon his announced plan of giving away chances on a six-weeks-old child to all women who attend a matinée performance at the playhouse. The women declare they will try to get an injunction from the district court to prevent it.

The theatre maintains it is a legitimate advertising scheme in which many women who want a child will be more than willing to participate. The baby has been provided, and if nothing happens to prevent the human lottery will continue as outlined, the child going to the holder of the lucky number. The indignant mothers say the "sanctity of the American home" is at stake, and they think they can stop the lottery.

NOT YET THE RED BALL.

Central Park Ice Must Be Thick Enough for Everybody.

The cold snap made ice on the Central Park lakes four inches thick yesterday—in the thickest part. But around the edges the crust is pretty thin still, and Park Commissioner Smith doesn't purpose hoisting the red ball until two or three more snappy days have made the ice a sure support anywhere for any sized crowd.

ALLEGED CHEATING IN SNOW.

Short Loads and Tickets Punched for Empty Carts, Says City Club.

The City Club's committee on streets sent a letter to Street Cleaning Commissioner Crowell last night complaining that the snow contractors had done but a small part of the work they ought to have done and that the methods of measuring the snow actually hauled were defective. The letter said that not only were the loads improperly measured, the imperfect measurements being in favor of the contractors, but that the inspectors employed by the club to watch the carts found many instances where the foremen of the Street Cleaning Department stationed at the dumps punched tickets presented to them by drivers of empty wagons without endeavoring to ascertain if a load of snow had actually been hauled in those wagons. The letter suggested that if the defects which were pointed out by the club could not be remedied, then it would be better for the city to do the work itself without calling in the aid of contractors.

PROSECUTING MINE OFFICIALS.

Five Men Held on Charges of Disregarding Pennsylvania Safety Laws.

PITTSBURG, Jan. 30.—Because of recent explosions wholesale prosecutions of mine fire bosses and others have been begun.

F. D. Thomas, superintendent; F. K. Smith, foreman, and Samuel Rolings, James C. Pancoast and A. Hoenschell, fire bosses, all of the Banning No. 2 mine of the Pittsburg Coal Company, were arraigned to-day before Justice H. M. Smurr of New Haven by Deputy State Inspector Daniel R. Blower.

The defendants are charged with disregard of the mining laws. They waived examination and entered bail for court. Banning No. 2 mine and the ill fated Barr mine, which blew up on December 19, killing 233 miners, adjoin each other.

Frank Guido, a miner, was committed to jail by Justice Smurr for carrying matches into the Frick shaft at Davidson. He was prosecuted by State Inspector Thomas D. Williams.

COUNTY OPTION FOR OHIO.

Measure Said to Have an Excellent Chance for Passing.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 30.—The Rose county saloon option bill was reported favorably to-day from the Senate Temperance Committee. It is on the calendar for next Tuesday and the chance for its passage in the Senate is declared to be excellent.

In proof of the temperance people's confidence of their majority in the Senate, Wayne Wheeler of the Anti-Saloon League to-day turned his attention to the House for the first time, where he is working for the Rose measure.

The legislators have been flooded with petitions for and against the bill and it promises to furnish the big fight of the session.

POISONED BY MAILED CANDY.

Family Made Deathly Sick by Eating Anonymous Sweetmeats.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 30.—Five persons were made violently ill this afternoon by eating poisoned candy, sent through the mail to Julius A. Mivelaz. Mrs. Mivelaz, his wife; his sons, Will, aged 10, and Ray, aged 8 years, and a visitor, Mrs. Lula Gossman, are the victims.

Dr. C. E. Wilson, who was called, suspected the candy, and ate several pieces. He also became deathly sick.

The candy was received in the mail yesterday, and one piece was eaten by one of the sons, who afterward complained of cramps, but who was restored with household remedies. To-day all partook of the candy. Detectives are working on the case. Mrs. Mivelaz suspects an enemy in the city.

American Tobacco Company Indicted in Kentucky.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Jan. 30.—The Franklin county Grand Jury to-day found an indictment against the American Tobacco Company, charging it with entering into a pool for the purpose of controlling the price of tobacco.

Torpedo Flotilla Leaves Buenos Ayres.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—The United States torpedo flotilla left Buenos Ayres to-day for Punta Arenas. It is due at the latter port on February 6.

HAAN'S Restaurant, Park Row Bldg. Refined surroundings for Ladies. Luncheon. Dinner. Music.—Adv.

ORIENTAL BANK MEETS A RUN

HAS AN OFFER OF $1,000,000 CASH ON CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

Directors Will Meet at 9 O'Clock This Morning to Decide What to Do—Had Cash Enough at Hand Yesterday—Bankers Think Run Was Undeserved.

President Hugh Kelly of the Oriental Bank said at his home last night that the directors would meet at the bank at 9 o'clock this morning to decide what to do about an offer to lend the bank $1,000,000 cash on certain conditions described below.

"We did not definitely decide to-day," he said. "The banks certainly acted handsomely by us. While we were in session this morning the offer was made to us over the phone and we were asked if we would accept. The condition was made that the directors pledge themselves individually for the amount in addition to depositing securities held by the bank.

"I replied that the directors would have to accept the conditions. Seven or eight of them did so at once, but two or three of the gentlemen said that they were bound by copartnership contracts and I did not feel that the matter should be pressed on them at once, as we did not need the money to-day. This morning we can look over our debit sheet at the Clearing House and also see what the day has in store."

The bank withstood a run all day yesterday, paid off all depositors without resorting to devices of delay and settled a balance of $130,000 at the Clearing House without receiving aid from other institutions. The bank's main offices are at Broadway and John street, and it has at the Bowery and Grand street a branch whose depositors are not of an even, calm and phlegmatic disposition when rumors against a bank begin to spread. The officers of the bank appreciated the gravity of the situation and were making arrangements throughout the day for assistance from other banks and individuals.

Richard W. Jones, Jr., was president of the bank up to the time, last November, when his connection with the Borough Bank of Brooklyn became known. This relationship had in no way affected the stability of the institution, it was said at the time, but it attracted attention to the bank in a period when depositors generally were prone to take alarm. Mr. Jones retired from the presidency and was succeeded by Mr. Kelly, who is president of Hugh Kelly & Co., 81 Wall street, and one of the best known commission merchants in the city. Mr. Kelly had been a director of the bank but had not been active in the management.

The bank was entirely solvent when Mr. Kelly took charge, but it then had outstanding many Clearing House certificates. The new management reduced the certificates by $1,000,000, or to $1,400,000. It is known that the bank has been in greater favor with the Clearing House authorities than the suspended banks of the Thomas-Morse-Heinze tinge, yet when the rule that no further assistance could be rendered was enforced the Clearing House could make no exceptions.

Withdrawals from the institution, despite the high character of its present management, began with the failure of the National Bank of North America and developed into the run yesterday on the announcement of the suspension of the New Amsterdam National and the Mechanics and Traders. On account of the rule adopted by the Clearing House the bank could not receive assistance from the Clearing House Association nor was such aid requested. Mr. Kelly, however, was able to marshal aid from individual banks within and outside the Clearing House, and as is said above had $1,000,000 cash put at his disposal under certain conditions.

Briefly these conditions were that the bank deposit as security for its loans from these bankers the collateral offered by it and guarantee the loan by the individual indorsements of the directors. Mr. Kelly assented to the proposition, but there were directors out of town and one or two others who on account of copartnership papers or such matters were prohibited from signing. These signatures were waived by the bankers offering to lend the money and it was expected then that the negotiations would surely terminate successfully.

Some of the directors adhered to the original agreement, but others reconsidered and the negotiations were accordingly held in abeyance all day long. The bank was able to get along easily enough without the assistance through the day.

After the close of business Mr. Kelly had a long consultation with William A. Nash, chairman of the Clearing House committee, and concurrently other directors conferred with other bankers. The board got together in the directors' room of the bank between 4 and 5 o'clock and remained in consultation until 7. They broke up without reaching a decision on the question at issue.

The bank has a capital of $750,000, surplus of $912,000 and undivided profits of $304,000. On the statement to the State authorities on August 22 it showed deposits of $7,576,811. On December 19, the date of the next report, the deposits amounted to $4,435,000. The resources on December 19 approximated $11,000,000, of which $8,243,100 were in loans and discounts. The cash holdings approximated $1,000,000 and cash items were shown to the amount of more than $700,000. In the liabilities at that time were $2,410,000 Clearing House certificates, since reduced by $1,000,000. It is believed that the withdrawals this week have been less than the amount of the Clearing House certificates retired and that but for the unexpected and in the opinion of the banking community undeserved run the condition of the bank to-day would be much better than on December 19.

About 100 depositors were in line before the main office of the bank at the opening hour. Tellers paid off with customary expedition, yet the line increased throughout the day. Not all of the waiting depositors could be admitted into the building, the offices not being large, so many of them braved the rigor of the weather and remained outside. At the close of business about 200 depositors were in line.

The Bowery Branch of the Oriental Bank, at 122 Bowery, met a brief run by depositors mostly from the East Side section immediately about the bank. Nelson G. Ayres,

Augusta, Aiken, Summerville, Columbia & Florida.—Southern Ry. new Limited. Write for information. N. Y. Office, 1200 B'way.—Adv.