

GREAT GRAFT IN PITTSBURG

ASTONISHING REVELATIONS AS TO THE CITY COUNCILS.

Allegations That Nearly All the Councilmen Could Be Bought for a Song... Preliminary Hearing in the Police Court—Former Bankers Accused—The Alleged Bookies Held for Trial.

ERRANDS, Dec. 23.—That the corruption of Pittsburgh's lawmakers is something absolutely beyond belief was shown here to-day when the seven alleged boodling Councilmen and two bankers were given hearings before Police Magistrate Frank Brady and were each held for court under heavy bail.

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Also that the so-called boodling gang supporting the wife of former Councilman William A. Martin, who is in the pen for boodling, the gang having been shown that Martin had looked at the "deal" that there was no set price for the vote of a Pittsburgh Councilman, rates ranging from a street car ticket up to \$100; the cheaper Councilmen were dubbed "hoodlums" by Klein and the "Big Six" and that on one occasion a bank president and cashier left \$17,500 on the table in a room with Councilman Klein the gang's collector, it being understood that both Klein and the money would disappear together, which they did.

When the hearing was called in police court this morning and all the alleged grafting Councilmen were present, as well as former President W. W. Ramsey of the German National Bank of Pittsburgh and former Cashier A. A. Vilsack of the same bank were present, an artist took a flashlight photograph of them.

Bankers Ramsey and Vilsack were called first and their hearing was short. A bank examiner told how he had found a suspicious looking notation in the books of the German National Bank and had demanded an explanation.

There was no defence to this Magistrate Brady announced that he would hear the two ex-bankers for court and each received his \$14,000 bail.

The cases of Councilmen Brand, Klein, Ferguson, Wasson, Atkinson, Soffel and Melaney were then called and the trouble began. Robert Wilson of Scranton, Pa., who did all the heavy detective work, laid all traps, took the stand and presented an array of facts and figures which made the accused Councilmen sweat even the pale and their friends who had even believed them innocent moan.

Confessions, photographs, checks and stubs of checks form a large part of the evidence that will be used by the Voters League in the prosecution of the Councilmen and others who have been arrested on charges of bribe taking and bribe giving.

Councilman Atkinson, who is among those accused of accepting bribes, accepted the Magistrate's verdict coolly and at once announced that he would withdraw from the race and would not be a candidate for reelection.

When Capt. Wilson's testimony was purporting to be his own conversation reported in court this morning he almost faltered. Once he rose and started to testify the smiling Wilson at once endeavored to break him. In his own way Wilson told how, representing himself as a "Mr. Jones," a lumber contractor, he had inveigled Klein to his room and there made a deal with him to get a contract to pave a street with wood.

Not less interesting was the excitement over the announcement by Wilson that a statement made to-day at the hearing in the Councilman case by one of the witnesses, that J. C. Wasson had stated that I contributed money for the Farmers Bank's share in the city's attempt to reorganize the bank, had been spoken of by the bank's end of the deal for city deposits.

W. W. Ramsey and A. A. Vilsack, and the Pittsburgh Councilmen, William Brand, Joseph U. Wasson, John E. Klein, Hugh Ferguson, T. O. Atkinson, Jacob Soffel, Jr., and W. H. Melaney, accused of being implicated in irregularities in Pittsburgh City Councils, were held at 10 o'clock this morning. The first case taken up was that against the former president and cashier of the German National Bank.

Harrison Nesbit, national bank examiner, was the witness called to testify that he was in charge of the Fourth district and under Examiner John B. Cunningham inspected the banks in this section.

"I have not had occasion to examine the German National Bank of Pittsburgh," asked Attorney Weil.

"Yes, on last Wednesday my assistants I went over the books and found a note for \$17,500 on which \$10,000 had been paid, together with other payments which left a balance of \$4,400. I took Mr. Vilsack into a back room and asked him what the money was used for.

"On being pressed he admitted to me that it had been paid to City Councilmen to secure city deposits," continued the officer. "I asked him to whom the money had been paid and he declared that he did not want to get any one else mixed up in it. I threatened to put him under oath, and he said he had conferred with W. W. Ramsey, then asked me to get the name of the Councilman who got the money, and he replied that it was 'K.' The witness then swore that he (Nesbit) had spelled out the name Klein and that Vilsack had not used the name.

Continuing the bank examiner said: "I asked him how he had turned over the money and he told me that he had taken it out of the vault and had placed it on his desk.

"Klein came into Vilsack's office and then Vilsack and Ramsey, who also had entered, left, and when they returned the money was gone and so had Klein."

At the conclusion of the testimony, Magistrate Brady simply announced: "That is all. We will hold those two for court."

Nesbit was excused and Vilsack and Ramsey renewed their bonds in \$14,000 each.

The case against the seven accused Councilmen was then called. Attorney Paul S. Ache asked for a severance of the case against Common Councilman W. H. Delaney, charged with conspiracy. Attorney Weil contested this and Magistrate Brady refused the application.

Robert Wilson, superintendent of the Municipal League of Scranton, who has supervised the gathering of evidence against the defendants for the Voters' League, was first called.

"When I first came here several months ago I secured rooms in the Duquesne Hotel," Mr. Wilson said. "I bored holes through the door so that I could hear what was said and done in the next room. On September 7, Mr. Klein was brought to room 102 at the hotel by Mr. Jones, one of our detectives. He was introduced to Mr. Bates, another detective. Then Mr. Jones told Mr. Klein that he represented the United States Lumber Company and that he wanted to provide blocks for a street to be repaved in this city. He suggested that Mr. Klein had pushed other deals through."

"You mean the bank deal?" "Yes," Mr. Jones replied. "Then there was some talk about metal cutting. Mr. Klein said he would lunch with Mr. Brand, that he was the big power. Then I can tell what it will cost you, Mr. Klein."

Later he returned to Mr. Klein and Mr. Brand—and the street proposition was renewed. Mr. Jones asked them to get a street in the city, and Fourth avenue was mentioned.

"Jones asked Klein what it would cost him. This was a later meeting. Klein answered that it would cost \$3,000 and that he needed thirty votes. Klein said that he could get some for \$10, some for \$25 and some for \$25 and then some for \$5 or \$10."

Several days later, the witness continued, Klein came in and showed him a list of checks from a customer who was up for reelection. Each of these needed \$500, he said. They talked over the amount of money to be appropriated for street paving and repairs and what would be necessary to "hold the Council in line."

On Dec. 13, the witness testified, Wasson came to his room and Wilson pointed out \$300, after which Wasson said: "You can count on me, Wasson, he added, after he had received the money inspected the bathroom, clothes closet and adjoining room, declaring that he wanted to be sure 'everything was safe.'"

The De Severinus were married in London in 1892. They have no children. Since the beginning of the original action they have lived at 623 Lafayette avenue, but have lived apart, using separate studios on opposite sides of the house. De Severinus is a member of the Union League and other Brooklyn clubs.

Macy's The Day Before Christmas Eve! The day long looked for is about to dawn. Candles will be lighted and stockings will be hung to-night. The sweet legends of Santa Claus will be retold again and again. Around the pillows on which curly heads nestle will hover the fairy forms of all the saints in the calendar of love. There are no Old Scrooges at this happy Holiday time. The heart-beat of humanity is quickened by the glad festival spirit. The store tension relaxes for an instant. The strain of the past month slackens and rest follows—a day of rest and then the tide will begin to surge again. What next? That question will be answered in the Sunday papers. THE WHITE SALE BEGINS MONDAY, DEC. 28. 100 Special Messengers. Prompt Deliveries.

TO RETRY ARTIST'S SUIT. Mrs. De Severinus Says Process Server Caused Failure of Divorce Action. Lillian De Severinus, an artist, is having a very hard time in her suit for absolute divorce from Albania De Severinus, who also is an artist. A jury in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn, found for the defendant on October 9 last and now the wife makes application for a new trial, declaring that she was double crossed by a process server, Tessie Engelbrecht, 19 years old, is named as correspondent. She lives with her mother at 175 Hart street.

James McCreery & Co. 23rd Street 34th Street. HABERDASHERY DEPTS. In Both Stores. On Thursday, December the 24th. Sale of Waistcoats, Pajamas, House Coats and Woolen Gowns, Handkerchiefs, Neckwear and Gloves. 300 dozen Waistcoats, of English Worcester. Latest models. 2.45 value 5.00. 10 dozen Pajamas, of colored English Silk. 12.50 value 18.00. 200 House Coats and Woolen Blanket Robes. 4.00 value 5.00 and 6.00. 50 dozen Handkerchiefs of French Lawn, with colored corded edge. 75c value 1.00. 450 dozen Scarfs, French and flowing end Four-in-Hands. Made of Satin, Moire, Repp, English Silk and Barathes. Plain colors, stripes and figures. 1.00. 250 dozen Gloves, "The Irving," of English Tan and Grey Cape Skin. Regular and short fingers. 1.00 per pair. 700 dozen Scarfs, French and flowing end Four-in-Hands. Made of Poplin, Satin and Knit Fibre. Plain colors and novelty stripes. 50c each.

BIG KAISER OILED THE SEAS. The Germans Are Keen on That, and It Works—Mrs. Vanderbilt Back. When the trained skippers of the North German Lloyd fleet see created these ships they begin to get busy with their oil equipment. Some navigators of well sided liners think that they can get along very well without oil; the Germans have a habit of depending on the experiences of other men who have shipped a few seas.

It was a German commander, Capt. Karlowa, who won the prize offered by the Hydrographic Office for the best essay on the use of oil at sea and Germans have been keen on this subject ever since. Capt. Karlowa, of the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, in yesterday used oil from the lavatory pipes and from bags over the bow and combed down the crests so that water did not splash on the deck, but did him harm. He is a believer in the experience of other skippers and the infallibility of oil. That may be the reason he got here without a scratch. Naturally the Kaiser had to go slow but she was in it swifter time than big ships that did not use oil. Before she began to calm the waters a wave boarded her and lifted off a ventilator on the weather side, carrying it across the ship.

Among the Kaiser's passengers were Anthony J. Drexel, Col. J. B. Dyer, Baron Rosen, Russian Ambassador to Washington, Harry Lehr, Count Maximilian Montgasal of Bavaria, who is here to attend the wedding of his brother, Count Adolph, to Miss Fannie Haxleton of Grand Rapids, Mich.; Mrs. Foster, Baroness de Selliers and Mrs. Vanderbilt, who was greeted at the pier by her son, Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney and Mrs. Reginald Vanderbilt.

Shortly after he arrived at the hospital he lapsed into unconsciousness and remained in that state for about a week. Then an operation was performed which resulted in restoring to him completely his faculties and making him perfectly rational so far as the present is concerned, but he is utterly unconscious of any past. His mind is a blank, he cannot tell what his name is, where his home is, nor anything about himself. He spoke just after recovering from his operation of Minnie and the children, supposedly his family, but since then has been unable even to make for the bar and seized a man who held a revolver. The party of four had vanished.

ALTRIO ARROW COLLARS. Note the evenness of the stitching and the fineness of the fabric in Arrow Collars. Arrow Collars are just as good as Arrow Collars—50 CENTS A PAIR.

AMERICAN ART GALLERIES. MANHATTAN OPERA HOUSE. AMUSEMENTS. METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE. AMERICAN MUSIC HALL. SYMPHONY SOCIETY. WALTER DAMROSCH, Conductor. NEXT SUNDAY AFT. AT 3. JOMELLI. TOY SHOW HOLIDAY BAZAAR CHRISTMAS CARNAVAL. AMERICAN MUSIC HALL. SYMPHONY SOCIETY. WALTER DAMROSCH, Conductor. NEXT SUNDAY AFT. AT 3. JOMELLI. TOY SHOW HOLIDAY BAZAAR CHRISTMAS CARNAVAL. AMERICAN MUSIC HALL. SYMPHONY SOCIETY. WALTER DAMROSCH, Conductor. NEXT SUNDAY AFT. AT 3. JOMELLI. TOY SHOW HOLIDAY BAZAAR CHRISTMAS CARNAVAL.

FORGET SOMETHING? If you have overlooked some need of the eleventh hour you will be very sure to find it in this well-appointed store. Suits, Hats, Scarfs, House Coats—a hundred things that men and boys like—ready on the minute. You may count on prompt deliveries. ROGERS, PEET & COMPANY. Three Broadway Stores. 258 at 262 1302 at 1318 134th St. 100 Special Messengers. Immense Reductions. Here's the stock for men and boys' stockings—Military brushes, motor goggles, slippers, scarfs, gloves, golf balls, coat caps, fur caps, umbrellas, hockey shoes, English knitted vests, Auto slip and Gillette safety razors, shaving sets, Fur coats, fur gaiters, fur lined gloves, smoking jackets, bath robes, dressing gowns, mecca-suits for bedroom slippers, staid travelling bags, suit cases, leather hat boxes, sweater jackets, English laundry bags, College flags, opera hats, silk hats, evening dress mufflers, soap of vest buttons, toilet roller-silk hosiery, Therman bottles, leather jewelry boxes, baskets, collar bags, walking sticks, steamer trunks, auto trunks, staid lunch baskets, cardigan jackets, silk suspenders.

Kennedy 12 Cortlandt St. Men's Furnishings. Nothing nicer for Christmas presents. Read these items—all are specials. Fancy Vests 1.98. 5.00 Fur Gantlets at 2.98. Sweater Coats 2.98 and up. Full Dress Shields 98c. up. Silk Suspenders 49c. and up. Blanket Bath Robes 3.50. Lined Handkerchiefs 1.38 Half Doz. Pajamas 98c. for 4.00. Rich Silk Scarfs 49c. up. Gloves—Cape, suede, Dress, 1.10 up. Shirts, white or fancy, 98c. up.

AMUSEMENTS. NEW AMSTERDAM THEATRE. LITTLE NEMO. NEW YORK THEATRE. HELD MISS INNOCENCE. GAITEY THEATRE. THE TRAVELING SALESMAN. BROADWAY THEATRE. JOSEPH O'MARA. LIBERTY THEATRE. VIA WIRELESS. HIPPODROME TWICE DAILY. CASINO. EDDIE FOY. SAVOY. WILTON LACKAYE BATTLE. METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE. AMERICAN MUSIC HALL. SYMPHONY SOCIETY. WALTER DAMROSCH, Conductor. NEXT SUNDAY AFT. AT 3. JOMELLI. TOY SHOW HOLIDAY BAZAAR CHRISTMAS CARNAVAL. AMERICAN MUSIC HALL. SYMPHONY SOCIETY. WALTER DAMROSCH, Conductor. NEXT SUNDAY AFT. AT 3. JOMELLI. TOY SHOW HOLIDAY BAZAAR CHRISTMAS CARNAVAL.

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