AND THIS IS IN HEMPSTEAD!

THEY'RE GAMBLING THERE WITH A BICYCLE WHEEL.

Nearest Thing to It They Ever Saw Was Over on the Racetrack—Talk of Raid by Sheriff—Wheel Is Popular and Some Say Harmless Part of a Fair

HEMPSTEAD, L. I., Feb. 5.—How is it to be told? How are the throes of Hempstead to be put into cold type? Hempstead, which is just over the border line from New York city and is the home of many of the socially blest! From the Jerusalem road to the edge of Garden City (of A. T. Stewart memory), from "The Meadows" and "Waycroft" and August Belmont's house to St. Paul's road and the confines where Mr. Crandall's yellow ochre resort with its acres of shady lawns stretches away into the dimness of the western Hempstead Plain Hempstead is upset.

And all because at the Masonic fair that opened last Monday and will not close until next Monday night there whirs a wheel of fortune. If one part of Hempstead stands aghast another part welcomes the merry whirl, and between them Noble F. Martin, organizer of Masonic fairs all over the United States, is on the rack. He has even been threatened with the Sheriff—not by the Sheriff, as it happens in this Long Island community just over the way from the Belmont Park races. A wheel of fortune in Hempstead!

Well, Mr. Noon, who has removed and supplied and adjusted more earth than any other man in Hempstead (he's a contractor); Charles Skidmore—known affectionately as Happy Charley—an entirely romantic figure, who has practically planted Hempstead and caused it to bloom, who rises at 4 in summer and 5 in winter and while he allows that health and wisdom come of his philosophy can't see just exactly where the wealth of the proverb comes in (he's a gardener)—these men with others are rather in favor of the wheel. They think that there should be a liberal understanding in the matter. And so does Dr. Warner, a physician of ample and reassuring presence, and Dr. Grimmer, a younger physician, and Mrs. Bedell, a taxpayer whose solidity in the community has never been questioned.

There has been indeed no formidable opposition to the wheel except such as was supplied by Dr. Smith—just Dr. Smith, the dentist, as he is known everywhere hereabouts, even as far away as Freeport—an iconoclast in the matter of the vices, and Mr. Denyse, a kindly man whose instinct it is to oppose harm no matter in what veiled and insidious form it may appear. But my! such an opposition as they have evoked! And all over a small wheel of fortune. Should there be a wheel of chance in the village—this village of 6,000 persons, this village of ancient faith, where Nehemiah Sammis under the sign of a flintlock offered entertainment to wayfarers away back in 1840 and under whose still extant sign his successors to-day in the same old home cater to the hungry and the thirsty man and beast?

There never was a wheel of chance in the place, unless the speculation in land, the booming of lots in far sections of the sandy plain, may be so considered. And now that it has come, now that Noble Martin, an estimable builder of Masonic temples all over the continent, has braved the rigor of the seasons to give to Hempstead a temple of the Masons all Hempstead is upset. And yet not all, for there is Miss Martin, the unterrified daughter of Noble, who smiles at it all, and there is the mere outlander, who though here nameless is august and placid as the historic Burnham beeches on the confines of Windsor, Slough and Stoke Pogis, where the Britons of a thousand years ago got firewood and in whose grateful shade the English of to-day halt their automobiles to take tea. And then too there is the element of tolerance represented in the affectionate cognomen and useful person of Happy Andy, whose grindery long served Hempstead before it fell to the uses of a laundry, and in the dominant personality bespoken in the choicest sign in all Hempstead:

SUSIE CLOWES
WANTS WASHING.

Susie was the general supervisor of the new town theatre lately put up—which is to open again next Lincoln's Birthday—and in the true spirit of the political reformers and city beautifiers of New York she served without pay; so it's plain to be seen now public spirited she s and that if Hempstead were all that the W. C. T. U. wishes it to be she would not "want washing."

It was the W. C. T. U. that, according to Dr. Smith, was the fly on the wheel that made all the dust. Anyway Dr. Smith, who is proud to represent these forces of law and order, said to-day as he rolled a cotton ball between the forceps that he had never threatened anybody with the Sheriff but that the ladies of the organization had sent an urgent and dutiful inquiry to know what was being permitted in this orderly community in the shape of the dubious whirligig that has given Hempstead more chances in the last six days than ever it had before in its life except when it went to town or over to the racetrack.

This awful wheel, that has not yet on any night fallen below $54 in the receipts it recorded for the Masonic fair and temple and which last evening made $80 for the worthy cause, which has been denounced as a roulette wheel, is—must it be confessed?—only a bicycle wheel, which the ingenuity of Mr. Martin, who is a thirty-second degree Mason, had converted to the service of his fair entertainment. The rest of the fair is much as fairs go the country over—there are booths tended by ladies who costume themselves as representatives of the various countries of the world, Japan, Italy, &c., where the ladies sell different articles contributed by well wishers of the Hempstead Masons, who own a plot of ground and want to raise money enough to put up a temple thereon.

The wheel, far from being a roulette wheel, whirls in a vertical plane, as it did when it contributed to the support of a bicycle, but it is painted red and its felloe is adorned with numbers consecutive from one to sixty. Not touchin' on but appertainin' in a general, not a specific, sense to this wheel are a number of "paddles," as Mr. Martin calls them—twenty of them to be precise—which the fair managers sell at 10 cents per paddle, the twenty paddles therefore yielding $2. When the twenty are sold the wheel is set awhirl, and when it stops with its leather interfering thong, indicating a particular number, the holder of the paddle with the corresponding number gets a prize.

The prizes run all the way from sofa pillows and other articles of ladies' home manufacture to china bowls and boxes of cigars. Hempstead has been standing in line waiting for a chance to get in on the twenty paddles. The village president, Mr. Titus, won a sofa pillow. A little girl won three times running and for one of her prizes chose a box of cigars for papa. For three nights the wicked work went on, to the profit of the Masonic temple that is to be, and then, night before last, came the eruption that is still flowing hot lava over the Hempstead plain.

Said Miss Martin: "My, what a lot of talk all of a sudden started up. Dr. Smith, the dentist, and Mr. Denyse thought that so such thing ought to be allowed. And do you know, Mr. Denyse himself is running a book? I mean he has one of the boxes for the selling of chances on things there—I think his is for a ring. Word came in that Dr. Smith had said he would send the Sheriff here to close up the fair. You shoul' have seen the excitement and heard what the women here said.

"The word got around that not only was the Sheriff to be brought here to stop the wheel but that everybody here was to be arrested. Well, one woman came up and said that if any man came here to do any such thing as that there surely would be a hornets' nest here right off, and another lady said of a certain man: 'If he comes here to do such a thing we'll tear his hair out.' Even Chairman Jones was a little worked up and asked papa if we hadn't better stop the wheel, but papa laughed and said 'Not much.'"

It is a fair inference from Miss Martin's beaming graciousness to-day that papa's daughters laughed too, or at least smiled. Anyway, although Mr. Martin was ill, Miss Martin continued to run things with the parental approval, and she said with some confidence that if there was any real danger of interference papa would certainly get up and be on hand. Mr. Martin has operated fifty or sixty fairs for the benefit of Masonic and other bodies in different parts of the country all the way to the Pacific slope.

Up to this morning something like $2,000 had been cleared here in Hempstead. On Thursday evening the grand master of the State was here and some of those who look askance at chance asked him to stop the wheel but—the grand master had played the wheel a bit during the evening before the request was made of him—he responded that it was "out of his jurisdiction." As somebody remarked, it takes a bit of a diplomat to be a grand master.

Dr. Warner said that there was no particular difference between this wheel divertisement and the selling of chances from a book and then putting a lot of numbers into a tin can, whirling it and pulling out one for a winner, as is done also, for instance, in the drawing of jurors. But some folk in Hempstead don't agree with this idea or the idea doesn't agree with them, and sermons are expected to be delivered to-day on the question uppermost in the Hempstead mind, for several of the ministers have spoken their minds upon it already.

"FRA DIAVOLO" REPEATED.

The Scribe-Auber Comic Opera Sung at the Metropolitan.

"Fra Diavolo" found its way into the Metropolitan Opera House last evening after its successful revival at the New Theatre and a small audience gathered to see and hear it. The text and action of this comedy of the elder days proved too small in style to carry effectively throughout the big auditorium, and Auber's music also lost a measurable portion of its flavor despite the excellence with which much of it was performed. Intimacy and charm are scarcely obtainable in the Metropolitan, notwithstanding its acoustic superiority.

The admirable art of Edmond Clément, vocal and histrionic, as *Fra Diavolo*, was again in evidence last night, and this French master of diction and of the musical phrase distinguished himself at every opportunity. His serenade in *Zerline's* moonlit bedroom had to be repeated. Miss Alten and her modest green stockings helped once more to make *Zerline's* rôle one of sprightly innocence, while Mr. Devaux and Miss Maubourg as the English travellers and Reiss, Bourgeois, Ananian and Régis contributed their several shares to what was on the whole a spirited presentation of the opera. Mr. Hertz conducted enthusiastically and with discretion.

"Fra Diavolo" was followed by the wedding scene from Bayer's ballet, "Vienna Waltzes," which had been added after Friday night's "Stradella" performance, with Ivy Craske, Ottokar Bartik and others, Max Bendix conducting.

TENOR CONSTANTINO SERVED.

Hammerstein Reports That His Suit Against Him Is Under Way.

According to information given out by Oscar Hammerstein yesterday Mr. Hammerstein's attorneys have succeeded in serving summons and complaint on Florencio Constantino, the tenor, in a suit which Mr. Hammerstein brought some time ago to recover $25,000 for breach of contract.

Mr. Hammerstein's version of the story is that he has a five years contract with the tenor, but that in the fall Constantino disregarded it and went with the Boston Opera Company and since then has been singing with that company in Boston and on the road.

Mr. Hammerstein says that a clause in the contract provided that if either party should violate the contract he should forfeit $25,000. Mr. Hammerstein immediately brought suit against the tenor, but was unable to serve the papers on him because he kept out of this State. Recently Mr. Hammerstein's lawyers learned that Constantino would be going through a corner of this State Friday night on his way from the west to Boston, and process servers were stationed at Jersey City and Mott Haven. The one sent to Mott Haven reported yesterday to Mr. Hammerstein that he had landed his man

THANKS FROM JUSSERAND

To the Metropolitan Opera for the Concert to Aid Paris Sufferers.

The following letter was received yesterday at the Metropolitan Opera House:

AMBASSADE DE LA REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE
AUX ETATS-UNIS.
WASHINGTON, February 4, 1910.

Mr. Gatti-Casazza, the Metropolitan Opera House, New York.

SIR: Allow me to express to you, on behalf of the victims of the recent inundations in France, the warmest gratitude for the concert organized by you on Sunday next.

Detained in Washington, I deeply regret not to be able to be present on such an occasion and to express to you personally, and to all those who so kindly assumed a part in the intended performance, my very sincere thanks.

I am particularly sorry not to be present when Mme. Delna and her distinguished comrades will sing our national song in a way worthy of its fame and of their own.

Believe me, sir, with best regards, sincerely yours, JUSSERAND,
Ambassadeur de France.

The benefit promises to realize a large sum for the charity, as all the seats in the less expensive parts of the house have been sold. There are still seats to be had, however, in the orchestra and boxes.

News of Plays and Players.

Columbia juniors and the girls whom they've been entertaining during prom week went to the Knickerbocker Theatre last night to see "The Dollar Princess." There were about 1,000 of them. Everything was done up especially for them, including the decorations of the theatre and the topical songs. Seth Low was paterfamilias.

Lee Shubert gave a dinner at the Café de l'Opéra last night to Lew Fields, who wound up his engagement here in "Old Dutch" and is getting ready to go on the road. Victor Herbert, composer of the "Old Dutch" music, was there.

The list of plays chosen by Ben Greet for his subscription performances at the Garden Theatre includes Marlowe's "Dr. Faustus," Gilbert's "Palace of Truth," Lytton's "Money" and the Hawthorne "Wonder Book Plays." A novelty of the series will be a "Shakespeare Festival" to celebrate the 346th anniversary of the bard's birth.

"Nibelung's Ring" to Be Repeated.

Owing to many requests the four dramas of "Der Ring des Nibelungen" will be repeated at evening performances at the Metropolitan Opera House. The dates will be February 24 and 26 and March 2 and 4. As these performances, except the second, fall on regular subscription evenings, no separate subscription for the cycle will be opened.

"Parsifal" will be sung on Washington's Birthday, beginning at 11:30 A. M.

"S O S" CALL ALMOST DROWNED

WATER AN INCH FROM DYNAMO WHEN ALAMO ARRIVED.

The Sinking Kentucky's Main Fight Was to Keep the Wireless Going—New Silver Service Lost—The Story of McGinnis, Who Sent Out the Long Call.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Feb. 5.—Capt. Frank C. Moore and his crew of forty-six men, who were taken from the sinking steamship Kentucky by the Mallory liner Alamo off South Carolina on Friday, have given to the officers of the Alamo a full story of their trying experience at sea. Capt. Moore sent his wife, at Seattle, a telegram by wireless through the Savannah station to-day telling her he was safe. The Alamo is on its way to Key West.

The Kentucky, which was bound around the Horn for Seattle, was to make her first stop at Santa Lucia for coal. She left Newport News on Wednesday night. Hatteras was reached on February 3. The seas were pretty high, but the ship seemed seaworthy in every way and no danger was felt.

At midnight of the 3d it was reported to the captain that the ship was leaking badly. Capt. Moore found that some of the seams had parted and that the ship was filling. Pumps were brought into play and for a time they seemed to gain headway.

Two hours after the leaks were found the situation was bad, but after that it was thought the outlook was brightening and it was not decided to call for outside aid until about 8 o'clock yesterday morning. Then it was found imperative to flash the "S O S" signal.

The fight to keep the water out of the ship became secondary. The real fight was to keep the water from reaching the dynamo that furnished the current for the wireless apparatus. Tarpaulins were stretched and other means adopted to keep the water from the dynamo, and when the Alamo came into sight she was just in time. Another inch and the water would have covered the dynamo.

The Alamo was ninety miles from the Kentucky when it caught the signal. When it got alongside the Kentucky the crew had the boats ready to launch, and transfer was made before dark.

The most valuable thing aboard the Kentucky was a silver service bought by the new owners and used for the first time just before Newport News was reached. It was lost.

The revenue cutters Yamacraw and Seminole, which are looking for the Kentucky, will probably not find her, as Capt. Moore says he is sure the vessel sank a short time after she was deserted.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—George Uhler, supervising inspector-general of the steamboat inspection service of the Department of Commerce and Labor, declared to-night that there would be no authentic report as to the reason for the sinking of the steamship Kentucky off Cape Hatteras until the officers and crew of that vessel reached land and were able to communicate with the authorities. Mr. Uhler believed that the officers and crew would be transferred from the Alamo to some northbound boat before they reached Key West. Ira Harris, supervising inspector at New York, who is now in Washington, came here to attend a meeting of inspectors, Mr. Uhler said

This despatch was received by the United Wireless Company last night from W. G. McGinnis, the wireless operator who sent out the S O S call from the Kentucky. It was sent from the Alamo off Jacksonville, Fla.:

"We left Newport News for St. Lucia Wednesday, February 2, and I reported to Norfolk our time of passing Hatteras February 3. Everything was progressing very nicely until that time except that the sea was very rough and the ship pitched very heavily.

"A leak was reported at midnight, and by 2 A. M., February 4, the water was coming in faster than the pumps could get it out.

Every one had come out on deck. At about 2:30 A. M. Capt. Moore called me and told me the condition of the ship, at the same time informing me that he did not think there was any real danger but that he would like me to get in communication with any ships that might be in our vicinity so that we could call them if we needed any help.

"The captain had already headed the ship for Charleston and expected he would be able to get her there without assistance. At 6 A. M. Mr. Grant, the chief engineer, came up and asked me if I had been able to get any answer to my call. He said that the water was slowly creeping up to the dynamo and that my power would be cut off as soon as the water reached it.

"Just before 7 A. M. I got in communication with Operator Seaman of the Alamo, who had heard my distress signal. The Alamo was about ninety miles away, and its captain asked for our position, which I gave him as near as Capt. Moore could reckon. They changed their course and came toward us at full speed. Meanwhile Cpat. Moore kept watching for the sun so that he could give the Alamo our correct position.

"At 8:30 A. M. Robert Lacey, the electrician, came up and told me that the water was nearly up to the fields of the dynamo and that if something was not done immediately the armature would burn out and I would lose my power. We decided the only thing possible to do to keep the dynamo going was to put all hands at work trying to keep the water away from the dynamo regardless of anything else until I had been able to give the Alamo our correct position.

"In the meantime Mr. Lacey wrapped the dynamo and the turbine engine in canvas. This helped to a great extent to keep the water from burning the armature out.

"We kept in constant communication with the Alamo and after she had given us her position we steered a course toward her as near as Capt. Moore could judge, making about two miles an hour. We gave up all hope of reaching Charleston and waited for the Alamo.

"Every one on board was in a very serious mood as we realized that the Kentucky could not stay afloat more than eight or ten hours and as we had not been successful in getting our correct position on account of not being able to see the sun there was every prospect of losing my power before I could give our position to the Alamo.

"Shortly before noon the electrician came up again and told me that they were unable to keep the water away from the dynamo any longer and that I could expect to lose my power at any minute. However I kept working, and at noon the captain was able to get our position, which I gave to the Alamo at once. I was able to keep working until we sighted the Alamo.

"At 1:30 P. M. all of the Kentucky's boats were lowered and at 3 P. M. the Alamo was alongside and took all of our crew aboard. The transfer from ship to ship was made without accident despite the very heavy sea.

"The captain and chief engineer of the Kentucky before leaving the ship inspected the engine room and found the lower fires out in the fireroom and water eighteen inches deep on the floor. They reported that the ship could not stay up more than six or eight hours at the most.

"The Alamo at once changed her course for Key West and left the Kentucky to sink."

Fanny Bloomfield-Zeisler's Recital.

Fanny Bloomfield-Zeisler gave her annual recital at Carnegie Hall yesterday afternoon before a large audience. She played a lengthy programme, including the customary literature of the piano, and displayed all the qualities that have won her such a high place among the women pianists of the day. Mrs. Bloomfield-Zeisler is too familiar a figure in local concert halls to demand analysis at this day. Her playing yesterday made her admirers grateful that she had reconsidered her determination to retire to Europe, which she threatened last season.

CONGER DISPUTES ALLDS.

Says His Demand for Bill of Particulars Is Based on Pipe Dreams.

AUBURN, N. Y., Feb. 5.—Senator Benn Conger when asked concerning the demands made to-day by Senator Allds said:

"My attorneys have advised me to say nothing. I will say, though, that Joe has based his latest demands upon a lot of pipe dreams, given out by the Albany correspondents."

"Did you change, as claimed by Senator Allds, your charges to the effect that in the insurgent conference at the Ten Eyck you alleged that you had given the bribe yourself and now in your formal charges claim that you saw the transaction take place?" was asked.

"I never said that I had given him the money as reported in the Ten Eyck Hotel conference. Joe is mistaken. I never said that I had given him any bribe. I did say that I had personal knowledge that he had received the money. Joe is mistaken; he has accepted a lot of hearsay as fact. Those seven Senators will prove this assertion."

"Do you intend to give Senator Allds a more specific bill of particulars than in your formal charges, as he demanded yesterday?" asked the reporter.

"Now you know yourself that the trial begins on Tuesday, and Joe knew it, and he did not want those particulars when he asked for them," replied Senator Conger, indicating that the Allds demands were grand stand plays.

ALBANY, Feb. 5.—Senator Conger's attorneys are not inclined to furnish the bill of particulars desired by Senator Allds unless they are ordered to do so by a vote of the Senate. Senator Conger and his attorneys will change their headquarters from the Rensselaer Inn at Troy to the Hotel Ten Eyck in Albany on Monday.

Judge Van Wyck, of counsel for Senator Conger, went to the Forest, Fish and Game Commission to-day and demanded access to the books of the department to show what Senator Allds's connection had been in a legal way with it for years back. Some of Senator Conger's friends insisted that it would be shown here that Senator Allds had a lucrative practice from this State department alone.

Commissioner Whipple refused to give Judge Van Wyck the information he was after, whereupon Senator Conger's counsel went before Supreme Court Justice Alden Chester and secured a writ of mandamus from him compelling the commissioner to give Judge Van Wyck access to the necessary books.

Judge Van Wyck went back to the department with the writ and remained there for some time.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Feb. 5.—State Senator Josiah T. Newcomb of the New York General Assembly, who is here on a business trip, said to-day with reference to the statement of Senator Jotham P. Allds in answer to charges lodged against him by his colleague Senator Conger in the Legislature of New York:

"I have no interest in the New York *Evening Post* or in any corporations connecting or dealing with it. I never at any time had such or any financial interest in the newspaper. I was a subordinate employee up to October, 1903, when all connection terminated. Senator Allds or his counsel could have ascertained all this by a very slight inquiry."

"What I did toward forcing the Allds-Conger investigation was intended in the interest of public decency. The charges were known to Allds and in general circulation. As an investigation was not demanded promptly I took such steps as seemed to me to be suited to compel one.

EXAMINED AND BOUNCED.

Commissioner Pounds's Scientific Way of Dealing With a Shirk.

Shortly after Mr. Pounds, the new Public Works Commissioner in Brooklyn, took charge at the beginning of the year he found that one of the old clerks in the Sewer Department was extremely irregular in his hours of reporting for duty, excusing himself on the plea of ill health. The supposed invalid clerk was forced by Mr. Pounds to submit to a medical examination, the result of which was thus summarized by the physician:

"This man is as strong as an ox. There is nothing the matter with his lungs; his wind is good and he appears sound in every particular. If he takes good care of himself he may live to be 80 years old."

A trial of the clerk for gross neglect of duty quickly followed and his discharge from the service of the borough was announced yesterday. Mr. Pounds said that it was not his intention to be severe on any one, but that he was obliged to make an example in this case.

NEW BUILDING FOR ACTORS.

Part of the Fund From the Fair Will Go for the $500,000 Structure.

Daniel Frohman announced yesterday that the proceeds from the great fair to be held during the week of May 9 for the Actors' Fund of America would not be devoted altogether to that charity but in part to the erection of a building on Central Park South which should be intended for the use of the theatrical and allied professions. It is expected that the fair in the Seventy-first Regiment Armory will yield a profit of at least $300,000.

"A good share of this," Mr. Frohman said yesterday, "must go to the fund, which is sadly in need of repletion, but enough will be left over to begin the structure. It will ultimately cost $500,000, but we have promise of help from many philanthropists who have become interested in the scheme.

"The house will contain theatres for the trial production of plays and vaudeville sketches, an agency to rid the actors of the necessity of paying fees for engagements, offices in which they may have the opportunity of meeting managers and every facility to ameliorate the present hardships of the actor's lot."

"La Bohème" at the Manhattan.

A fine audience responded to Mr. Hammerstein's summons of last evening to another performance of "La Bohème" at the Manhattan Opera House. Apparently it is only necessary to announce this Puccini opera to draw a theatre full of people, so it is natural to assume that "La Bohème" will be offered several times more at each of the operatic establishments.

The cast last night at the Manhattan was headed by Mme. Carmen Melis and little Miss Trentini, on the distaff side, while John McCormack and Mario Sammarco were the principal members of the Attic Club. Mr. Anselmi conducted and there was liberal applause

Brooklyn's Emerald Ball.

The annual ball of the Emerald Association of Brooklyn, the seventy-second in its history, takes place to-morrow night at the Waldorf-Astoria. Since the burning down of the old Academy of Music the Emerald balls have been held in the Waldorf-Astoria and they have invariably been very successful. That of last year netted more than $4,500 for the Roman Catholic Orphan Society, which has been the special beneficiary of the Emerald Association since its organization in 1838. Preceding the ball there will be a concert by Shannon's Twenty-third Regiment band.

All the leading city and borough officials, headed by Mayor Gaynor and Comptroller Prendergast, will be present and many national and State officials will also participate.

Schooner Aground.

ATLANTIC CITY, Feb. 5.—Little Egg Harbor life savers report that the schooner J. H. Whealton, lumber laden, from Chincoteague for Beach Haven, is stranded on the beach. The crew were taken off.

Telephone the Theatre

THERE is an old saying that "A stitch in time saves nine."

The "stitch in time" in getting theatre tickets is to telephone for them. Every theatre ticket office has its telephone, or in many cases, telephones, and seats ordered by telephone will be reserved for a reasonable length of time.

Unless seats are reserved in advance it is frequently impossible to obtain them. It is most annoying to arrive at the theatre just before the curtain rises only to find every good seat sold. It is most exasperating to try several theatres and find the same condition prevailing.

Theatrical managers cannot be blamed for selling out their houses. **The theatre-goer must insure his own convenience by making arrangements in advance. The quick and satisfactory way to do this is by telephone.**

By telephone, seats can be reserved, time performance begins ascertained, theatre party arranged. Thus the possibility of annoyance and disappointment at the last minute is forestalled.

Bell telephone service is both Local and Long Distance, and people out of town who are coming to New York can also make their theatre arrangements in advance by telephone to advantage.

New York Telephone Company

Every Bell Telephone is a Long Distance Station.

AMERICAN TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH CO. AND ASSOCIATED COMPANIES — LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE — BELL SYSTEM

HIGGINS'S FRIENDS DEFEND HIM

AGAINST CHARGES MADE BY PUBLIC SCHOOL JANITORS.

They Give Him a Dinner and Declare Their Faith in His Motives When He Was on the Board of Education—He Says He Has Courted Investigation.

The Schoolmen of The Bronx, an association which includes the members of the local school boards and many of the principals, gave a dinner to Park Commissioner Higgins last night at the Harlem Casino to show their disbelief in the charges brought against him by public school janitors as to his conduct during his term as a member of the Board of Education from The Bronx. Mayor Gaynor has ordered the Commissioners of Accounts to investigate the charges.

Supreme Court Justice Brady declared that he believed Commissioner Higgins's record was absolutely straight and said that his motives were honest even if his enemies had villified him. "We, the citizens of The Bronx, interested in educational matters and in the public schools, know what he has done and know that he will meet the charges in a fair, manly way," he said.

Dr. Andrew W. Edson, associate city superintendent of schools in charge of The Bronx, said that he knew all about Commissioner Higgins's record in the Board of Education and was sure that Mr. Higgins had administered the affairs under his charge in an absolutely honest, impartial way. "We can thank him for reforming the janitor service of New York," Dr. Edson said.

Borough President Cyrus C. Miller said that he didn't have much use for public dinners as a general thing, but that he felt impelled to attend the dinner last night because of his faith in Commissioner Higgins.

"I came to show my appreciation of what he has done," said Mr. Miller. "The chief question at issue is whether a citizen of this big town who takes public office and who is bound to benefit the people can be annoyed by people bringing such charges without his friends taking up the cudgels in his defence. He is not guilty and he will prove it. I know he has always done his duty in an honest, manly, fearless way."

Commissioner Higgins, who spoke last, said in part:

"My friends, no man can be insensible to this expression of friendship, and especially under the present circumstances. I've been a member of the Board of Education a little over six years, and although some of you may think I have been promoted to a higher office I differ with you. I think a position on the Board of Education is one of the highest honors that can be given in the city. I surrendered it with keen regret.

"While I was in office I can say to you as men I performed my duty without fear and without favor, and politics or religion never interfered with any act of mine. When I took office there was within the ranks of the janitors an indifference which showed itself in utter defiance to the authorities of the schools. To-day we have clean schools and you know that the janitor is subservient to your authority. I take some pride in saying that I have put in your hands the authority to make the janitor do his work, and if he doesn't do his duty you have the power to withhold his pay.

"I fear no investigation. I court it. When these charges first came up I appealed to the president of the Board of Education and the former Mayor to give me a chance to meet these charges, but they denied it, saying that they felt no recognition should be given to these hideous slanders."

Commissioner Higgins was presented with an engraved set of resolutions setting forth his public career and his friends' assurances of confidence in him.

President Steers at Logan Club Dinner.

The members of the Logan Club held their eighteenth annual dinner last night in the clubhouse, at Sixth avenue and Garfield place, Brooklyn. Nearly 200 diners sat down at the tables. There were speeches by Assemblyman George A. Green, president of the club; Charles S. Aronstam, Frank A. Bruner, Borough President Alfred E. Steers and the Rev. James M. Farrar. The Logan Club is the leading Republican club in the Twelfth Assembly district.

MISS PECK TO CAMP FIRE CLUB.

Woman Mountain Climber Tells of Her Ascent of Huascaran.

Miss Annie S. Peck, the mountain climber, was the guest of honor at the dinner of the Camp Fire Club of America at the Hotel Astor last night. More than two hundred diners, women as well as men, joined in applauding Miss Peck's conquest of Huascaran, the giant of the Andes and supposedly the highest peak in the Western Hemisphere.

Miss Peck herself took the platform and with the aid of stereopticon views told the Camp Fire folks of her perilous climb.

"You will notice," said she as pictures taken from the peak were thrown on the screen, "that I stayed up long enough to get evidence that I had been there."

Miss Peck said that a windstorm and bad weather generally had prevented her from taking the observations on the peak that would have established its height beyond doubt.

"What was my feeling when I reached the top?" she asked. "Oh, the only thought that came to me was: 'Here I am at last after ten years of effort.'"

Miss Peck told of many narrow escapes that she and her guides had in making the descent. Once she slipped and fell the length of her guard rope. She added:

"As I lay there on the ice I said to myself: 'You must keep cool.'"

Miss Peck herself joined in the laugh that greeted this statement.

Dr. Charles H. Townsend, director of the New York Aquarium and naturalist on board the United States steamship Albatross on some of her famous deep sea exploring expeditions, told the diners of his experiences in this work and showed them a lot of interesting pictures. In deep sea work it took his men three hours sometimes to get the dredge to the bottom, he said, and from four to five hours to bring it to the surface again.

"Animal life," said he, "is living at a depth of four and three-quarter miles in the sea in total darkness and under a sea pressure of four and a half tons to the square inch. Many of the deep sea fishes are blind, but some have eyes. Nearly all are phosphorescent and if they see at all it is from the phosphorescent glow emanating from all animal life in the depths."

The doctor put a spike in next spring's stock of sea serpent stories.

"The sea serpent! There is no such thing," said he. "In the tropical waters we find sea snakes, some of them venomous, but our dredgings have shown absolutely nothing in the way of serpents."

Dr. Townsend declared that even today 95 per cent. of the animal life which comes up from the deep sea in dredges is new to science.

Other speakers were Irving Bacheller, who read some of his own verses on the "buck fever"; Ernest Thompson Seton, Dan Beard and Louis A. Kin, the artists. The trio of artists kept the diners laughing by illustrating their talks with rapid fire drawings. Everybody was greatly interested in one of Seton's rough and ready drawings which showed a heroic figure, his face set with a wonderful lot of teeth, in the act of whirling a terrified lion by the tail.

Henry D. Estabrook was toastmaster.

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