

**SPARROWS PUT STOVER
IN STRANGE QUANDARY**

**Commissioner Can't Find Any-
body to Advise Him in Cam-
paign of Extinction.**

UPPER BROADWAY ROUSED

**Birds Monopolize Roads, Walks,
Earth and Air, and Folks
Complain.**

The hardy and insistent English sparrow is one of Park Commissioner Stover's chief worries now. Last spring when he was bothered in the selection of a chauffeur, which the Board of Estimate said he might have for his automobile, he appealed vainly to heads of the city's departments for help and advice. Again he has gone to the same source for aid in wiping out the sparrow, even applying to the Federal Government for advice, only to be left with the job on his hands.

Citizens who live along upper Broadway, mostly that section between 157th and 149th streets, wrote to Commissioner Stover a week or so ago that the sparrows had become so numerous, thousands of them, that they were a nuisance. The little birds made their nests in trees in the middle of the street and at the sidewalk curbs, and played in the vines on the houses, annoying pedestrians, householders and even Tony the bootblack, whose customers refused to sit in his chair because the birds bothered them.

"We must abate this nuisance," said the Commissioner, who is a man of action.

He called his stenographer and dictated a note on the city's official paper to the Agricultural Department in Washington, asking what the Government did when it had to tackle a flock of chipper sparrows.

"Shoot them and poison them," was the Government's answer.

"Now, I can't do that," said Commissioner Stover. "They won't let my men shoot in the streets and I can't scatter poison in the streets."

The Commissioner had a hazy thought. He remembered, just in time, that Park Commissioner Joseph Johnson lived in the disturbed neighborhood. Mr. Johnson has been an Avon and a Great Oak, but of course that has nothing to do with sparrows, and the thought never entered Commissioner Stover's head.

"I'll ask Commissioner Johnson," said the Park Commissioner, "to have his fire fighters turn the hose on these sparrows and they will kill them or drive them away."

But to think was to act.

"My men are for fighting fires," was the prompt reply from Commissioner Johnson.

"If the sparrows are a nuisance call on the Street Cleaning Commissioner. He's the man who is responsible for the streets."

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L. P. Hollander & Co.

Fifth Avenue at 46th Street

Great Annual Clearing-up Sale

Commencing, Monday, December 30

All goods bought at sale will be billed Feb. 1.

Tailored Suits
\$25 to \$85
Were \$45.00 to \$150.00.

Utility Coats
with fur collars,
\$50.00
Usual Price \$75.00.

Wool Motor Coats
\$25.00
Were \$45.00 to \$65.00.

Linen Suits
\$15.00
Were \$25.00.

Evening and Dinner Gowns
\$45 to \$125
Were \$85.00 to \$275.00.

Summer Dresses
\$18.00
Were \$35.00 and \$45.00.

Odd Lot of Children's Dresses
\$5.00
Were \$10.00 to \$20.00.

Corsets
\$4.00 to \$8.50
Were \$15.00 to \$25.00.

Separate Waists
from \$5.00

Face Veils
15 and 25 cts.
per yd.

Children's Hats
Ages 3 to 12,
\$3.00
Were up to \$20.00.

Broken Sizes of Glace Kid Gloves
50 cts.
Were \$1.10.

Women's Hats,
\$5, \$10, \$15
Many in perfect condition.

Lingerie Dept.
Combinations,
\$7.50 to \$12
Were \$20.00 to \$35.00.

Bed Jackets,
\$12.00
Were up to \$45.00.

Negligees,
\$18.00
Were \$35.00 and \$45.00.

POSITIVELY No Sale Goods Sent on Approval or Exchanged.

B. Altman & Co.

SPECIAL REDUCTIONS have been made in the prices of **WOMEN'S AFTER-NOON AND STREET DRESSES**, including styles in velveteen and corduroy, which will be offered to-morrow (Monday) at **\$18.00, \$25.00 & \$35.00**

Also **TAILOR-MADE SUITS**, including styles in velveteen and corduroy, at **\$25.00 & \$35.00**

THE LATEST FASHIONS in Imported Brocaded Velvets, Soft Moire Silks, Brocaded Crepes, Brocaded Poppins and Chine Taffetas.

THE NEWEST SHADES for Afternoon and Evening in Charmeuse and Meteor, Chiffon Taffetas and Satins, Crepes and Messalines.

COMPLETE ASSORTMENTS of White Silks and Mourning Silks.

MODERATE PRICES

The **MOURNING DEPARTMENT** is prepared to supply **COMPLETE MOURNING OUTFITS** in correct styles for immediate wear.

Exclusive designs in Women's Mourning Dresses and Tailor-made Suits.

Mourning Millinery for all periods of Mourning. Gloves, Neckwear, Handkerchiefs, etc.

Mourning Garments made to order at short notice.

MAIL OR TELEPHONE ORDERS WILL RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION.

AN OFFERING WILL BE MADE TO-MORROW (MONDAY) OF

FRENCH RAMIE LINEN

46 ins. wide, in colors only, at the special price of **45c. per yard**

A Sale of Men's Overcoats

WILL ALSO BE HELD TO-MORROW (MONDAY) AS FOLLOWS:

Men's English Overcoats (taken from the regular stock), of desirable materials, at the special price of **\$30.00**

Actual values \$45.00, 50.00 & 60.00

Men's Fur-lined Overcoats, made of dark-gray cloth, lined with natural muskrat and finished with beaver collars at **\$48.00**

Actual value \$85.00

MEN'S FURNISHING DEPARTMENT

B. Altman & Co.

HAVE IN COURSE OF PREPARATION

A Very Important Sale of Household and Decorative Linens Blankets, Bedspreads, etc.

WHICH WILL COMMENCE ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1913

Fifth Avenue, 34th and 35th Streets, New York.

PRUDENTIAL IS WORKING TOWARD MUTUALIZATION

Bill Drafted Which Would Enable Insurance Company to Act.

PLAN OF JOHN F. DRYDEN Scheme Would Allow Policy Holders to Buy Stock With Surplus.

A movement is under way to convert the Prudential Insurance Company of Newark into a mutual concern. The idea has been approved by the board of directors of the company and a draft of a bill to make such a thing possible has been drawn. The plan was advanced by John F. Dryden, who is president of the corporation. He held that it would be the best means of solving the problem of conserving the interests of the policyholders in life insurance.

Forrest E. Dryden, president of the company, declared yesterday that the proposition had been considered but that nothing final had been decided upon. Further than this none of the officials of the company would talk about the matter. The Prudential and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York are the two largest stock companies handling life insurance in the country, and it is understood that the Metropolitan company is not in sympathy with the change.

The directors of the Prudential have reached the conclusion that the interests of the policyholders are dominant in the insurance business. One of the reasons for the decision of the directors is said to be the litigation brought by Leon F. Blanchard, a stockholder, to have the company surplus distributed among stockholders.

Under the terms of the new bill it would be possible for the directors of any insurance stock company to determine by a majority vote to change the corporation to a mutual concern. It calls for the appointment of one or more independent persons by the courts to appraise the value of stock, with regard to par value, dividends paid thereon and the eventual rights of the stockholders.

The appraiser, appointed by the Chancellor, who is designated as the appointing power, would be compelled to make a report which would have to be approved by him before confirmation. After his confirmation there would be a meeting of stockholders at which a majority in interest could authorize the purchase by the company of the stock at the appraised value. The latter action would be subject to the approval of the Banking and Insurance Commissioner.

It is further provided in the bill that the directors of the Prudential shall appoint trustees to act for the policyholders to receive such stock as may be purchased. It is also provided to make it lawful for the company to use its surplus to purchase the stock. The policyholders' trustees after the transfer of stock would be authorized to vote thereon at all stockholders' meetings, with the provision that they vote for such persons for the directorate as are chosen by the policyholders prior to the annual meeting. Any dividends declared on the stock held by the trustees would go to the policyholders.

When the Prudential was organized by the late Mr. Dryden in the early '70s as "The Widows and Orphans' Friendly Society," he intended it as a benefit society in giving financial aid in the event of sickness, accident or death and an annuity in old age. In 1878 after it had become the Prudential Friendly Society the name was changed to the Prudential Insurance Company and for several years only industrial policies were issued.

In 1886 the first ordinary policies were issued. The company has 10,000,000 policies in force now, while in the beginning of the year the books of the company showed three-quarters of a billion dollars worth of this business.

TEN HORSES SUFFOCATED.

Wooden Stable Destroyed in Very Short Time.

Ten horses were suffocated to death in a fire which destroyed the one-story wooden stable at 525 West 129th street in a very short time last night. The flames traveled up the side of the building and the quantity of gas it contained that nothing could be done to save them.

The stable was owned by Michael J. Shtolts, a contractor. The loss, including that on horses, harness, wagons and building, was estimated at \$10,000.

The fire made a blaze that was seen for miles up and down the river front.

BOY COASTER DEAD; TWO HURT.

Sled Runs Into Automobile on a Ridgefield Park Hill.

HACKENSACK, Dec. 28.—Three boys were injured, one fatally, in a head-on collision between a sled and an automobile at Ridgefield Park, near here, this morning. Allan Donaldson, aged 19, of Edwin street, Ridgefield Park, had his skull fractured and died during an operation in the Hackensack Hospital; Frank Donaldson, aged 8, his brother, got a severe scalp wound and lacerations, and William Donaldson, aged 9, of Hackensack avenue, Ridgefield Park, suffers from bruises and cuts.

The auto was owned and operated by Freeholder Wendell J. Andrews of Teaneck, who was on his way to New York with his wife and daughter. Mr. Andrews were coasting on the Port Lee road when Andrews started up the hill on the right side. The elder Donaldson boy steered his sled, which he got for Christmas, in front of the auto, striking one of the axles.

Andrews tried to swing his car over to one side. The wheels caught in a rut and the engine stalled. He picked up the unconscious boy, put his wife and daughter out of the car, and sped to the Hackensack Hospital, about a mile away.

Dr. St. John found a depressed fracture of the skull to be Allan's injury and the boy died as he was operating.

The members of the other sledding parties exonerated Andrews.

COPS STOP SILENT SPEECHES.

Miss Constable Summoned for Blocking Street From Indoors.

As a crowd gathered in front of 240 Fifth avenue yesterday and read a series of "silent speeches" which members of the Women's Political Union placed on cardboard in the window, explaining what the vote would do for women, a special policeman employed by the Fifth Avenue Association hunted up two uniformed policemen and notified them that the "silent laws" were being violated.

Later the two policemen walked up to Miss Anna Constable of 739 Park avenue, just as she was putting another placard in the window, and one of them gave her a summons to appear in the Jefferson Market police court to-morrow morning. The "special" was with them.

"What have I done?" asked the surprised Miss Constable. "Surely I have broken no laws."

"You're blocking traffic, which is against a city ordinance," replied the policeman.

The Fifth Avenue Association is the complaining party in the "silent speech" case. It knows Mr. Robert Greer Cooke, the president of the association, very well, said Miss Constable with a smile. "I really wonder if he meant to have me arrested."

The policeman and the "special" hurried away as Miss Constable's friends started to bombard them with questions as to the why and wherefore of the summons.

"It seems to me to have been a ridiculous proceeding," said Miss Constable at her home last night. "I surely didn't know I was doing anything wrong."

Among the women who aided in the work of posting the "silent speeches" were Mrs. John Rogers, Jr., Mrs. Edward Livingston Hunt, Miss Eleanor Brannon, Mrs. William Floyd and Mrs. Edward McVicker.

IN DELIRIUM BETRAYS HIMSELF AS MURDERER

German Farmhand Confesses Assaulting Miss Marshall, Who Died.

NURSE LEADS HIM ON Police, Through Hole in Wall, Listen to Ravings, and Mystery Is Solved.

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 28.—William Atzenhoffer, 28 years old, a German farmhand, was arrested this afternoon after he had confessed that he was the assailant of Miss Lucia Marshall, who was attacked on a lonely road near here three weeks ago, and who died later from the effects.

The man was employed on a milk farm near this city, but left a day or two before the assault on Miss Marshall took place and has been living in an apartment house in this city. He was taken sick recently, and while suffering from fever and in a delirium a couple of days ago talked of the crime and described so graphically the part he had taken that the nurse attending him believed it to be more than mere imagination. She notified Dr. Joseph G. Denelsbeck of Trenton, who had charge of the sick man. The physician told the county authorities, and detectives were sent to the apartment house. Holes were bored in the wall of Atzenhoffer's room and the detectives sat in an adjoining room listening while Dr. Denelsbeck drew from the sick man the details of the crime.

This afternoon Atzenhoffer was taken into custody and was brought to Prosecutor Crossley's office, where he supplemented his confession with other details.

Miss Marshall was on her way home when she was attacked. She was dragged through a fence into a field, where she was found unconscious hours later. She lay between life and death for several days and then died, never having been able to give any description of her assailant.

Atzenhoffer was arraigned before Justice of the Peace David L. Kelsy, formally charged with murder, and sent to jail without bail for the action of the Grand Jury.

It was learned that the prisoner told the authorities that he did not go to the scene of the murder with any idea of attacking Miss Marshall. His purpose in going to the spot where he attacked the young woman was to lay in wait for a man whom he bore a grudge. He admitted that he took along a piece of lead pipe.

While he was lying at the side of the road Miss Marshall came along. He spoke to her, but she paid no attention to him, so he ran out and grabbed her. She fought him and then he says he became furious and struck her over the head with the pipe. He then dragged her into the lot, where he says she revived and began to call for help feebly. He says he became frightened then, and fearing that he would be caught fled.

Mrs. J. E. Capon, the trained nurse, first put the authorities on to Atzenhoffer. She will probably receive the \$2,025 reward, which had been offered for the capture of the murderer.

BRIDE SHOTS HERSELF.

Young Wife Mortally Wounded While Showing Revolver to Guests.

Mrs. Agnes Tier, the young wife of Gilbert Tier, who is employed in the office of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Jersey City, accidentally shot herself with a revolver last night in her home at 119 Linden avenue. The woman is now in the City Hospital and the physicians say she has no chance of recovery.

The Tiers, who have been married only four months, were entertaining friends last night. In the course of the evening Mrs. Tier went to the sideboard and took out a revolver, saying that she intended to take it upstairs to her bedroom when she retired, as it would be of more use there in case it was needed at all in the house. She was showing the weapon to her guests when it was accidentally discharged.

The bullet penetrated her left lung.

THIRD DANCE OF THE GROWNUPS

Held This Time in the Hotel Netherland Ballroom.

In the ballroom of the Hotel Netherland was held last night the third of the dances of the Grownups, which began several weeks ago at the Mason Arthur. The dances will be given fortnightly until May 3.

Among the subscribers present last night were Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bigelow, Mr. and Mrs. J. Berry Underhill, Mrs. L. Groves Converse, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hoiges, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph B. Bourne, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Whitney, Mr. and Mrs. Chester W. Chapin, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Van Vleck, Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Guver, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Little, Mr. and Mrs. Broadhead Van Buren, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin E. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Jameson Cotting, Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Hunt, Mrs. William G. Roelker, Mr. and Mrs. Joel Rathbone, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Van Vleck, Mrs. Daniel Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Albert T. Kelley, Dr. Ramon Gutierrez, Harold Blandy and G. Brette Gantner.

GRANDE MAISON DE BLANC
Annual Sale
COMMENCING TO-MORROW (MONDAY),
Household Linens
French Underwear
Children's Wear
We call particular attention to the very large reductions in FRENCH UNDERWEAR during the coming sale.
308 FIFTH AVENUE, 32d Street