

VICE HUNTERS FIND CHICAGO WIDE OPEN

Senate Commission Tours Stores and District in Low Wage Inquiry.

BIG MERCHANTS TESTIFY Lawmakers Learn Small Pay Drives Women and Girls to Lives of Shame.

Chicago, March 8.—Bent on securing first-hand information bearing on "white slavery" and the influence of low wages on the industry of the vice committee of the Illinois Senate made a tour of department stores this afternoon to study working conditions.

Then the investigators visited the vice district and found that the district, which had been closed toward the end of the administration of former State's Attorney Wayman, was beginning to open up again on a more elaborate scale than ever.

Girls in the department stores and in the vice district south of the downtown center were interviewed and summoned to appear for official questioning at sessions of the committee next week.

"Our commission has proved that low wages are the principal factor in causing delinquency," said acting Gov. O'Hara, head of the commission, after these tours. "Big business cannot deny this in the face of the overwhelming testimony of the victims themselves."

"Every unfortunate woman that has testified has sworn that poverty and inability to earn enough money honestly to live half decently drove her into a life of shame. They were selected haphazard."

"Big business men are responsible for this awful condition. One witness here, Julius Rosenwald, chief officer of a business that pays \$7,000,000 profit a year, admitted he could have paid \$2,000,000 a year more to his underpaid employees without seriously interfering with his profits."

"If we find that these men, who value their reputations enough to guard them by liberal gifts to charities, are underpaying their women employees, what may we expect when we investigate the unscrupulous small business men, sweatshop owners and pitiless exploiters of women and children?"

"Before we get the question of low wages, the whole country will be shocked, horrified beyond expression, at the methods of big business."

Senator Beall, a member of the commission, to-night disclosed the contents of letters received from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., offering to aid the commission with his personal influence and fortune.

"He will have a commission sit in New York," said Senator Beall. "We do not know the exact means he will employ, but the testimony of New York working girls, white slaves and, if possible, big employers will be procured in New York city."

At the one session of the committee this morning the principal witnesses were Edward Hillman, secretary-treasurer and general manager of Hillman department store, and John Mack (Glen), secretary of the Illinois Manufacturing Association.

A letter was received from Mandel Bros., stating they had decided to raise the salaries of all their more than 14 year, old from \$3 to \$4 a week. A question elicited the information that the change affected only eight employees.

An offer also was received from James Simpson, vice-president of Marshall Field & Co., agreeing to open the books of the company to examination by the commission on condition that the figures be withheld from the general public. The committee did not decide what reply to make, although the chairman said he believed the information the commission got was the property of the people.

Mr. Hillman said the morals of women employees and the question of low wages might be connected in certain instances and not in others. He said the lowest wages he paid was \$3 to errand girls. The highest salary paid to women, he department heads, was \$30, he said. He thought a minimum "living wage" should be about \$9 a week.

"Suppose a girl is getting \$8 a week and it costs her \$10 to live on the necessities of life. Is she well fortified to resist temptation?" asked Chairman O'Hara.

"Yes, I think so," Mr. Hillman said he employed 817 women. The average wage paid was \$7. The witness said that ninety-two girls employed in his store were under 16 years of age. The number was 23 at \$5.50, 24 at \$4 and 46 at \$3. He said further that there were 150 saleswomen, who earned between \$6 and \$7 a week. He declared all of these lived at home or with relatives.

"As an employer of these girls do you feel you have any moral responsibility for their welfare?" he was asked.

"Yes, sir, I do," he replied. "We have women who watch over them and women doctors, who see all the girls daily. They report to me direct."

"If you found a girl working at \$3 a week had gone wrong as a result of low wages would you feel the pangs of conscience?" asked the Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. Hillman paused as if considering. "Perhaps you would consider it one of the accidents of life or business," suggested the questioner.

On Monday morning, W. C. Thorne, second vice-president of Montgomery Ward & Co., is slated to follow him. Other merchants who are waiting to testify are Joseph Basch, vice-president and manager Stiegel, Cooper & Co.; Henry Schwab, manager Rothchild & Co., and A. Ellinger, manager of the Boston Store.

Miss Mary McDowell, the social worker in charge of the University of Chicago settlement work, declared tonight it would be next to impossible for a girl employed in a store to live on \$7.25 a week.

After she had scanned an itemized schedule of expenses presented to the committee by Edward P. Mandel she conferred with another employer of girl help, with an expert from the university settlement and with two girls who are earning their own way.

Using this information as a basis Miss McDowell estimated that a girl living at home must earn at least \$12.50 to live respectably. A comparison of the cost of living tables of the employer and the settlement worker follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Mandel McDowell Schedule, Settlement Worker Schedule. Items include Room rent and board, Clothing, Food, Fuel, etc.

Miss McDowell estimates one vacation of two weeks each year at a total cost of \$15.

"My figures make no provision for old age; they give a girl no opportunity to save a penny," said Miss McDowell.

WOMEN PLEAD FOR HELP.

1,000 Letters From Unfortunate Received by Wagner Committee.

The members of the Wagner committee spent yesterday in digesting the testimony taken on remedial police legislation in preparation for the executive sessions of the committee which will begin at Albany on Wednesday. There are 400,000 words of testimony for the committee to go over.

The members of the committee from their remarks yesterday evidently are aware that they have a job on their hands. The sentiment of the committee, privately expressed, is that many reforms should not be undertaken. What ever legislation is proposed will be limited probably to the social evil, excise matters, the term of the Police Commissioner and increased pay for patrolmen.

There is no question that the committee is in favor of Sunday opening of the saloons, but whether the hours of opening should be restricted or not is still an open question. The committee will give this matter consideration in the executive sessions.

Certain members of the committee favor a law to make the term of the Police Commissioner five years. This would carry a Commissioner over to the successor of the Mayor who appointed him, on the theory that if the Commissioner had not been a success the new Mayor could name another Commissioner after his first year in office. If on the other hand the Commissioner had been efficient the new Mayor could reappoint him.

Those opposed to this plan say that as the Police Commissioner is really a member of the Mayor's cabinet and one of his most important appointees he should be allowed to make his own selection at the start. But a member of the committee who favors the five year term pointed out that Assistant Secretary of State Adze has been reappointed in Democratic and Republican administrations because of his knowledge of the workings of the State department and that there was no reason why the same principle shouldn't apply to a capable Police Commissioner.

As there is no intention at Albany this year to violate the spirit of home rule for cities, the committee will probably recommend an advisory board of social workers for the Police Department instead of a morals commission. It will recommend also that the pay of patrolmen be increased.

Nearly 1,000 letters have been received by the committee from unfortunate women asking that some action be taken to help them. Most of the letters bear the stamp of sincerity and few of them were anonymous. These letters will be considered at the executive sessions of the committee and some of them without the names of the writers may be given out so that the public may get an idea of how seriously these women regard the situation. Those who had read the letters say that many of them are pathetic and that some almost tragic in the sentiments expressed.

A woman who was ill called at the office of Senator Robert F. Wagner yesterday and asked that something be done for her. There was no life she could follow, she said, except the life she was leading and she was sure she must die in the street unless some refuge were afforded for women like herself where they might build up their health and be aided in finding employment.

Rosie Hertz Must Serve Her Term.

Rosie Hertz, who was sentenced to a year in the State Prison for a disorderly house, after she had refused to give District Attorney Whitman any information as to payments of money to the collector for the benefit of that institution by Supreme Court Justice Lehman yesterday, denying her a certificate of reasonable doubt.

NEW YORK CALIFORNIANS DINE.

Clarence H. Mackay Kept Away by Illness in His Family.

There were a hundred and more enthusiastic Californians at the St. Regis Hotel last night for the tenth annual dinner of the California Society of New York. Clarence H. Mackay was to have been toastmaster, but he sent a telegram regretting that illness in the family prevented his being here. Charles J. Brooks, secretary of the society, took place.

Mr. Mackay's telegram, dated from High Point, N. C., read: "Greetings to you, fellow members and friends of the California Society of New York. Will you kindly on my behalf express to those attending the annual dinner of the society my great regret at finding myself unable to attend through illness in the family to be present and my appreciation of the honor you have done me in electing me president of the California Society. Will you also please convey to the members of the society my hearty wishes for their welfare, coupled with the hope that the future may find us still more closely bound by those ties of friendship and loyalty inherent in all Californians and which makes them love and honor their native State in whatever part of the world they may be."

John Hays Hammond sent a telegram saying that he had been unable to leave Washington. With Toastmaster Brooks at the guest table were William Spruille, president of the Southern Pacific Railroad; George Hough Perry, director of exploitation of the Panama Pacific International Exposition; John McNaught, Stephen T. Mather, W. P. Martin, Herbert Kaufman, Eugene J. Cantin, J. C. Stubbs, P. C. MacFarlane, J. W. Brown and Joseph H. Grismer.

GRAFT TRAIL NOW NEAR HIGHER UPS

New Witnesses Tell Whitman Payments Went to Police Headquarters.

"CREEPERS" A NEW ONE Variation of Old Badger Game a Rich Source of Illegal Profit.

District Attorney Whitman's assistants have arranged for the appearance of a number of witnesses for the Grand Jury in the graft investigation this week. Through some of these they believe that they will be able to trace certain graft payments nearer to Police Headquarters than they have been able to do so far. Several inspectors, former inspectors and captains are expected to be involved. Also inquiry is being directed toward certain persons closely connected with headquarters itself.

One of the points in the Harlem situation which is interesting the investigators is a conference reported to have occurred in a station house on the East Side a week ago in which Inspector Sweeney and several captains are said to have participated. The District Attorney has the names of the captains. Sweeney has been under suspension since his indictment and this station house was in another district than that which he recently commanded. Mr. Whitman's men are anxious to find out just what was the purpose of this conference.

Ashley Shea, the Harlem gambler and confessed collector, has given the District Attorney much information which has so far been only hinted at publicly. One of the names given by Shea to Mr. Whitman is that of Herman Michaels, described by Shea as a Harlem poolroom keeper and handbook man. Michaels will be subpoenaed this week.

Shea has told Mr. Whitman that Michaels may be able to give information regarding a third collector for Inspector Sweeney, besides Sergt. Duffy and Policeman Robinson, who are already under indictment. This third collector is said to have had charge of the graft from crap games and other gambling of the kind.

John Tomes, proprietor of the Colonial Hotel, who testified before the Grand Jury on Friday, is expected to furnish more information, as his hotel was a favorite meeting place for a number of the men accused. This chief of the men accused in the District Attorney's staff is working at present is that of a woman who runs a questionable resort in the upper Tenderloin and who is said to be on friendly terms with a certain police official. This woman, the District Attorney has been told, encountered another woman named in the same business in a Harlem restaurant and the two got into an argument. Immediately on arriving home the first woman is said to have telephoned for the police official in question and to have told him to close up the other woman's business.

The official is said to have telephoned to a saloon to two policemen under his command saying, "I want you to get a woman and get her right." Within an hour, according to the story, the policemen had the woman who had quarrelled with the police official's friend in the station house and her place was closed up. This woman is expected to tell her story to Mr. Whitman this week.

Two young women employed in the "creeper" industry are being called as witnesses early this week. The District Attorney has learned that this "creeper" game has become systematized and is under the direct protection of a police official who is accused of profiting largely by it.

Mr. Whitman has learned that some twenty or twenty-five men are working this game in the two Tenderloins. They employ eight or ten of the best looking women in the Tenderloin section.

The victims are mostly men from out of town who look prosperous and not too wise. One of the women takes the victim, whom the "creepers" have selected, to one of five or six hotels between Thirty-fourth and Forty-sixth streets. While the man is in the company of the young woman a "creeper" goes through his pockets. Letters addressed to the man and the opportunity for subsequent blackmail are especially prized as loot in these cases.

The District Attorney has been told of one victim of this game who was robbed since Christmas. He lost \$6,000. Mr. Whitman has been able to trace this money; \$300 of it was retained by the "creeper" the young woman who assisted got \$800, and the rest went direct to a police official who is said to make this form of graft one of his particular perquisites.

The "creepers" usually lose their money gained in this way in gambling and it is said they are obliged to play in a certain gambling house on Seventh avenue and in which police and political interests known to the District Attorney are alleged to have influence. One "creeper" who violated this rule and spent his money in another gambling house was picked up as a vagrant and sent to the workhouse.

Assistant District Attorneys Frederick J. Groehl and James E. Smith have learned of four more Harlem hotel keepers who have paid protection money to a collector for the benefit of that institution. The men will be called before the Grand Jury to-morrow or next day. If they refuse to testify indictments will be asked for against them.

The District Attorney's office is now interested in the history of another Harlem captain, who is said to be very well to do. Nothing has been said about this captain in the investigation hitherto, but Mr. Whitman's men believe they will be able to present evidence against him soon.

Another gist of information upon which the prosecutor's staff is working has to do with a string of resorts in the lower Tenderloin whose managers had their headquarters in a delicatessen shop. Large sums were collected from these resorts, according to the information, and the prosecutor's men have been told that one of the men who figured prominently in the events following the murder of Herman Rosenwald was the person who did the collecting. An effort is being made to trace this money.

Brooklyn Calls Rochester Pastor.

The Rev. Dr. James T. Dickinson, until recently pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rochester, N. Y., has received a unanimous call to the pastorate of the Ninth Avenue Baptist Church in Brooklyn, which has been vacant since the Rev. Dr. G. G. Griffin resigned last June.

ESTABLISHED A QUARTER OF A CENTURY YIGGINS & SEITER Largest Retail China and Glass Store in the World

Annual March Sale of Imported Dinnerware

In this great China event we offer the most extraordinary values of the entire year in fine Dinner Services from the foremost potteries of Europe. The wide selection embraces EVERY STYLE OF DECORATION—delicate floral designs, rich band effects and beautiful white-and-gold patterns.

Reductions of One-fourth to Half of our low regular prices have been made, assuring a substantial saving on any Set purchased, an idea of which is suggested by these typical values—

At \$17.50 we offer a \$27.50 Set (106 pieces) of excellent English ware—and from this price the values range gradually upward to a superb \$376 Limoges Service of 122 pieces at \$250.65. Odd pieces from many of the Sets will be sold at corresponding reductions.

Note the Address of our New Store (Opposite Tiffany & Co.) "Buy China & Glass Right" 9 & 11 East 37th Street Just off Fifth Avenue: Telephone Murray Hill 460

WED SIX DAYS BEFORE SHE GOT A DIVORCE

Former Mrs. Pulsford's Lawyer Says Situation Is "Unfortunate."

At a further hearing in his divorce suit before Advisory Master Edward M. Cole in the Chancery Chambers in Newark yesterday, J. Arthur Pulsford of Elizabeth testified that his wife once asked him to withdraw his defence in a divorce action she brought against him in Omaha in March, 1910, but when he refused and said he was willing to agree to any other kind of a separation she told him she didn't want that.

Mr. Pulsford testified that his wife told him she didn't want his name and asserted that she would go to the end of the world if necessary to get a divorce from him. The validity of a Reno divorce, which was granted later, is an issue in the present case. The defendant is now Mrs. Lillian De Peyster Post Pulsford Walker.

A pencilled note which was left behind by the defendant when she quit her husband's home in Elizabeth on July 22, 1909, was offered in evidence by Frederick M. P. Pearce, counsel for the petitioner. Mr. Pulsford testified that he kept his Elizabeth home open until last April and that he made overtures several times to his wife to return to him.

In opening the argument in behalf of the defendant Cortlandt Parker said that while Mrs. Walker married her present husband on March 31, 1911, and her Reno decree was not signed until April 6 of that year, it was an "unfortunate situation" which prevented the decree being recognized as valid by the courts of New Jersey.

Mrs. Walker testified on Friday that Reno has other attractions besides its facilities for untying marriage knots.

SUES ESTATE FOR \$1,228,750. Browne Charges Executor Refused to Carry Out Contract.

A suit to recover \$1,228,750 was filed in the Supreme Court yesterday by Stewart Brown against the estate of John B. Brown, who died in 1908. The complaint alleges that prior to John B. Brown's death the parties entered into a contract whereby the plaintiff was to sell to the defendant the entire capital stock of \$600,000 and the bond issue of \$28,000 of the Broadway Building Company, owner of the building at the southeast corner of Broadway and Maiden lane. The defendant was to pay \$1,375,000 in cash and give a note for \$200,000 in addition, as well as to convey real estate in Chicago.

According to Mr. Pearce the validity of Mrs. Walker's Reno divorce hinges upon whether or not she became a sojourner in Nevada solely to avail herself of that State's divorce laws. He said that if she went there to get a divorce the decree will not be recognized as valid by the courts of New Jersey.

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SOCIETY'S HOSPITAL BENEFIT. Concert in Aeolian Hall Next Thursday Excites Interest.

Society is interested in the concert that will be given in Aeolian Hall on Thursday afternoon under the auspices of the Night Camp and Social Service Auxiliaries of the New York Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital for the benefit of that institution. The artists will be Miss Lillian Ormond, contralto; Miss Blanche Malley, soprano; Paul Reimers, tenor; and Bonarion Grimsom, violinist. Theodore Flint will be at the piano.

Mr. S. Holbrook Curtis, Mrs. Henry P. Davison, Mrs. Willard D. Straight and Mrs. Lucy Aldrich are members of the committee arranging the concert. Among those who have taken boxes are Mrs. Richard Gambrell, Mrs. Cornelius C. Cuyler, Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Mrs. George J. Gould, Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer, Mrs. Edward N. Breitung, Mrs. Dexter Blagden, Capt. J. R. De La Mar, Daniel Guggenheim, Hubert Litchfield and John D. Crimmins.

CHANGE IN PARCEL POST RULES. Four Ounce Domestic Packages May Go in Street Boxes.

Announcement was made by Postmaster Edward Morgan yesterday of a change in the parcel post regulations affecting packages for domestic destination weighing four ounces or less. If these packages bear the distinctive parcel post stamps they may hereafter be deposited in street package boxes and at all numbered stations.

Parcels weighing more than this must be mailed at the General Post Office or in the parcel post regulations affecting packages for domestic destination weighing four ounces or less. If these packages bear the distinctive parcel post stamps they may hereafter be deposited in street package boxes and at all numbered stations. All packages must bear the name and address of the sender.

J.M. Gidding & Co. New York Paris

THE secret of obtaining correct style, fabric and shade in women's outdoor dress depends entirely upon the place where you purchase your apparel—

The woman who selects her Spring wardrobe in the Gidding Salons enjoys that keen satisfaction which comes from knowing that the styles she has chosen are absolutely authentic in character.

There is no necessity HERE of discriminating between the real and the imitation—in fact, no opportunity to discriminate, for only those modes which bear the endorsement of the accepted fashion authorities are offered by this house.

Our Spring Displays form a comprehensive exhibit of authoritative Fashions from the foremost couturiers of Paris, together with exclusive creations cleverly adapted from the French by our experienced designers, who are in close touch with every new phase of Fashion as soon as it develops. The showing embraces—

New Models by Paquin, Poiret, Cheruit, Doucet, Drecoll, Beer, Worth, Lanvin, Premet, Jenny and Georgette

and other smart creations in Afternoon and Evening Gowns and Wraps

Morning and Street Frocks Two and Three-piece Costume Suits

Tailor-made and "Sport" Suits Motor, "Sport" and Utility Coats

Blouses and Waists Especial attention is invited to the Exquisite French Millinery

for the Spring and Summer Seasons, which is more diversified and attractive than any previous showing we have made.

In this exhibition we introduce the most recent conceptions of such famed modistes as Varon, Talbot, Reboux, Lanvin, Guy, Lewis, Poiret, Grouel, Louison and Georgette, in which are portrayed the new shades now the vogue in Paris—sea green, sand, oyster, tete de nege, Pam green, Maria Louise blue and other delightful colorings; and the wonderful new trimmings, such as burnt ostrich, numidi, gorgeous paradise and the delicate two-tone roses which are a feature of Suzanne Talbot's Hats.

Hats of milan in all shades, including the new oyster, and the new close-fitting Turban with folds by Georgette, are among the most attractive models shown in this charming ensemble des chapeaux de luxe.

Fifth Avenue, 46th and 47th Streets

SEVENTH'S VETERANS' JUBILEE.

Guest of Honor at Banquet Joined Company in 1856. Two hundred and fifty active and veteran members of Company 1 of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. N. V., enjoyed a banquet at the Hotel McAlpin last night in celebration of the seventy-fifth birthday of the company.

George W. White, the oldest living veteran member, who joined in 1858, was the guest of honor. A letter of congratulation to the company was received from Gov. Sulzer.

Col. Daniel Appleton made a speech, and other speakers were Major J. E. Schuyler, Capt. J. A. Barnard, Capt. W. Corell, Capt. W. M. Halsted and Capt. F. W. Hubby.

Among those present were Major Francis G. Landon, president of the association; Commissioner Edwards, a former member; Capt. E. G. Arthur, Capt. J. T. Harper, Bayard Dominick, Capt. H. C. Duval, Col. B. B. McAlpin, Major Mc-

GETS MEDAL FROM CONGRESS.

John McCormick of Fire Department Saved Four Lives. John McCormick, a civil engineer in the Fire Department, got a Congressional fire saving medal yesterday for rescuing Catherine McMahon, Frank Doring, Oscar Nelson and Elmer Niles, who were clinging to an overturned canoe in the Hudson River off Inwood on the night of August 12, 1912.

He lives in a cottage near the river and heard the cries of the young persons. There was no boat handy and McCormick went out on a big log and brought them ashore when they were exhausted. Former Congressman W. S. Bennett presented the medal after Judge James P. Duaneport of Inwood spoke about the nobility of saving life when there is risk to the rescuer.

Deputy Fire Commissioner O'Ryan said that heroes were to be found in the civil as well as in the uniformed employees of the city.

BIGGEST CHAIR PLANT BURNS.

Shreve Factory Destroyed in \$500,000 Blaze at Union City, Pa. UNION CITY, Pa., March 8.—Damage estimated at nearly \$500,000 was done by a fire in the manufacturing district here tonight. The fire started in the Shreve Chair Company's plant, destroyed it and damaged the Variety Turning Company and the Hanson Furniture Company plants.

The loss of the Shreve company was placed at \$325,000. The plant was said to be the largest chair factory in the United States.

R.J. HORNER & CO. FURNITURE-DECORATIONS-RUGS. Oriental Rugs. Our collection of Oriental Rugs represents a process of elimination by one of America's foremost rug experts.