

EASTCHESTER HEARS MERRITT IS SHOT

Rush to Spot Fails to Reveal Missing Supervisor's Body.

MAY EXAMINE HIS BOOKS

State Auditors Said to Be at Work—Resignation Not Accepted.

TUCKAHOE, N. Y., Nov. 6.—The town of Eastchester, of which Bronxville and the village of Tuckaehoe are important parts, had a new thrill in its excitement over the alleged disappearance of Henry C. Merritt, for ten years Democratic supervisor of Eastchester, when word was brought here today that Merritt's body had been found in the woods nearby with a bullet hole in the head.

There was a scramble to the place, but no body was found.

There is a better known man in the town of Eastchester than Merritt. The newspapers already have related how well campaigning for reelection as supervisor he dropped out of sight about a week before election day, following a speech by his Republican opponent, Frederick Close of Tuckaehoe. Close charged that Merritt had issued certificates for indemnities covering uncollected taxes amounting to \$28,000, whereas, according to Close's figures, the uncollected taxes amount only to about \$21,000.

Merritt not only stopped campaigning but disappeared from view. For a score of years he has been known as a contractor whose most recent operations included large canal contracts around Tuckaehoe involving about \$1,000,000. It is said here tonight that these contracts turned out badly, largely because Merritt did not have the help of a competent engineer in carrying on the operations.

Merritt has lived here for some time in a large white Colonial mansion on the hills of Sagamore Park. In the garage adjoining the house are, or were, two automobiles. Merritt's grown children attend country colleges and seminars. It is said he has been living at the rate of about \$2,000 a year, was the estimate of one of his friends here tonight.

After Mr. Close's charges, Merritt and others sought to get a telegram asking that the State send auditors to look into Merritt's books. Lawyer Henry W. Smith of Bronxville, president of the village and authorized by Merritt's family to answer questions, said last night he had been told that the auditors already were at work.

Last Friday night at the meeting in the new town hall Michael E. T. Hennessey, town clerk, and a sealed envelope, which he said, had been handed to him by a man on the street. It contained Merritt's resignation. The resignation was not accepted, and will not be until the State auditors have made a report on Merritt's conduct of his office.

Merritt is about fifty years of age. He has lived in Westchester county since birth. While awaiting word from him or from the State auditors an effort is being made to locate the missing supervisor. In the meantime there will be no one to take up his official duties until Close, who was elected to succeed him, enters office.

ACTS IN MERRITT CASE.

State Comptroller Sends Auditors to Examine Books.

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PRAYER ANSWERED, SHE DIES.

Wife of Yonkers Mayor Wanted to Live Till He Was Re-elected.

WIFE OF YONKERS MAYOR WANTED TO LIVE TILL HE WAS RE-ELECTED.

YONKERS, Nov. 6.—Mrs. Winifred Butler Lennon, wife of Mayor James J. Lennon, whose long illness took a serious turn two weeks ago and which she might have recovered from, died at 6 o'clock this morning at her home, 80 High street, thirty hours after she heard of his election for a third term by a larger plurality than ever before.

Mrs. Lennon, who was born in Brooklyn, was 43 years old. Besides her husband, five daughters and four sons, the eldest of whom is 19, she leaves her estate to her husband, who was stricken with an incurable malady. When her condition became critical a fortnight ago and her death was looked for hourly she prayed that she might live until she had seen her husband. Her prayer was answered when she heard of his election for a third term by a larger plurality than ever before.

Mrs. Lennon was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, where the funeral will be held on Saturday morning.

TARRYTOWN FLOWER SHOW.

Close of the Most Successful Exhibition Ever Held There.

TARRYTOWN, N. Y., Nov. 6.—The fifteenth annual flower show of the Tarrytown Horticultural Society closed to-night. The exhibits surpassed those at any previous show. A floral show from Boston, which had been expected to rival the show in quality.

The display of chrysanthemums, roses and carnations was particularly fine. Mrs. Frances M. Wilson, on a judgment obtained by John T. Smith, a lawyer, Mr. Smith represented Mrs. Wilson when she sued her husband for a separation, which was settled by the payment of \$750 a month alimony by Wilson.

Wilson testified that he pays the \$750 a month regularly to his wife, who has been in California for over a year. He refused to pay the lawyer.

PICK BERRIES IN YONKERS.

Harley Peyton Wilson, head of the banking firm of H. P. Wilson & Co., was examined in the Supreme Court yesterday in supplementary proceedings against his wife, Mrs. Frances M. Wilson, on a judgment obtained by John T. Smith, a lawyer. Mr. Smith represented Mrs. Wilson when she sued her husband for a separation, which was settled by the payment of \$750 a month alimony by Wilson.

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Principals in Pre-election Graft Charge Hearing



Dist. Atty. Whiteman Cross-Examining McGuire.

M'GUIRE DENIES HENNESSY STORY

Continued from First Page.

Governor he gave him \$2,500 which he drew from the account of himself and his brother, James K. McGuire, in a Syracuse bank. He took the money in bills to Albany himself and handed it over to John A. Hennessey. He said he thought the money was to help Gov. Sulzer, who had told him that since his impeachment he was hard up and deserted by many of his friends. He said the governor promised to repay him out of his contingent fund if the impeachment trial resulted favorably to him.

Mr. Hennessey took the stand and swore that McGuire knew the money was not for the governor's use, but was contributed with the avowed purpose of enabling Mr. Hennessey to continue his graft hunt. This graft hunt was to get material to defeat Tammany Hall in the recent election, a consummation which Mr. McGuire, according to Hennessey, devoutly wished.

George W. Perkins mentioned. Hennessey testified that George W. Perkins offered to be one of five men who should contribute \$5,000 each toward the expenses of the graft hunt, but that it was decided later to get twenty men to contribute \$1,000 each instead.

The money that was collected was paid over to Editor Stoddard of the Evening Mail, and Mr. McGuire's payment of \$2,500 was a part of it, said Hennessey. It would not appear credited to McGuire, said Hennessey, because McGuire didn't want to have it known that he and his brother were taking part in a fight on Tammany Hall, but Mr. Hennessey said his correspondence with Mr. Stoddard would show that the real contributor's name was being covered up.

Mr. McGuire, beginning his story, said he and his brothers did a general bonding business under the name of McGuire & Co. and also had a share in the bonds of contractors who get large canal and State highway contracts. He said they did a bigger business in this line than any other company outside New York. He did not say so, but their chief rival for the business of bonding these State contractors is said to be the Praxley-Cohalan Company, of 51 Chambers street, of which Senator James J. Frawley is president and Timothy E. Cohalan is secretary.

Mr. McGuire said he first became acquainted with John A. Hennessey last January and that he had known Assemblyman William Sulzer since 1896, when Sulzer was a candidate for the nomination for governor. He said he saw much of him at Syracuse during the convention that did nominate Mr. Sulzer for governor and that they conversed both before and after the nomination. He said he had had any further dealings with Mr. Sulzer, the witness said he did not want to answer. Magistrate McAdoo told him he must answer. Then he said:

offered Aid to Sulzer. "I saw him in his hotel room the morning after the nomination. I congratulated him and told him I would like to help him, that I wanted to make a contribution. The governor assured me that a contribution would be acceptable, and I went and got the money and gave it to him. It was \$500 in bills."

"Where did you give him the money?" "In the bathroom. He took me in there and I handed it to him. I went there and he said to me after his impeachment."

"Yes, in the latter part of August I was in Albany, a fitting of highway contracts to solicit business for my company. He called me on the telephone and asked me to come to the Executive Mansion at 9 o'clock that night. I went there and he and I talked alone in his study. The governor was disturbed. He was reading through a pile of newspapers in which there were accounts of his impeachment. He asked me if I had any good news and I told him none of importance or service to him. He said his friends were leaving him, that where they used to come to him now he had to send for them, that they ought to help him and that he needed money. He wanted me to give him money. I went home and he again spoke of his many needs."

"The next day I went to the First National Bank in Syracuse with a check for \$2,500 in my pocket and myself and got \$2,500 in bills. I sent a telegram to Hennessey in Albany."

"Did you tell him you hadn't heard about any contributions made by them?" said Mr. Whiteman. "I told him I had no specific knowledge. I had heard rumors."

"Well, I read in the papers of alleged contributions, but I had read of no names. I told him I didn't know of any. He asked me about individuals after that."

"Did you tell him you had general knowledge of those contributions?" "I told him I had no specific knowledge."

"Did he ask you about the contribution of \$5,000 made by William Kelly of Syracuse?" "Yes, and I told him I had read about it in the newspapers."

"Do you know if Kelly did make that contribution?" "No, Kelly's contribution was generally talked of in the newspapers, but I never talked with him about it."

"Have you talked with any one who claimed to have real knowledge concerning it?" "No."

"Who did you talk with?" "I can't tell."

"Did you talk with any one who paid Kelly?" "No."

"Did you give him the name of any contributor whose contribution was not recorded?" "No."

"Do you know of any?" "No. I believe that Patrick H. Murray of Rochester gave me a contribution of \$50 in 1910 or 1911. It was the last year of the Dix administration. I met him, asked him if he would contribute and told him if he did I would send in



George H. McGuire on Witness Stand.

the money for him. He gave me the money and I sent it with two or three others to the treasurer of the State committee in New York.

"Did you tell Mr. Hennessey about any contributions?" "I didn't tell Hennessey about any contribution made by anybody. There was no reason why I should. I will tell you about two or three, but I didn't tell him I'm under oath now and I'm telling you because I have to."

Mr. Whiteman read down the long list of contractors whose names appear in the Hennessey paper, Mr. McGuire shaking his head negatively to most of them, and stopping him when he came to one who he knew had contributed. He said that Patrick Murray gave him \$50 in 1910 or 1911. He said Lane Bros. of West Virginia, canal contractors, gave him \$100 in October, 1911, at his suggestion.

"Why did you suggest such a thing to them? That is a West Virginia corporation."

"Well, Mr. Lane had been doing contracting work in the State for two or three years. The State hadn't had a Democratic governor in years before Gov. Dix and I thought that in addition to my own contributions it would be a nice thing for me to help out by getting the contractors to help out. I did not urge that it would benefit them to do so because they had contracts. I spoke to half a dozen of them. Scott Bros. of Malone gave me \$100 by check in 1911. Will Kinsey of the Kinsey Construction Company, Chicago gave me \$500 by check. Luddington Bros. of Rochester, and Larkin & Sanger of Seneca Falls also contributed, but I forget the amounts."

"Why did you give Hennessey these names at Utica?" "I wasn't going to tell him about any contributions. I told him I didn't have any specific knowledge."

"Why did you want to admit being under oath that you deliberately falsified to Mr. Hennessey?" "He had no authority to question me."

Denies He Gave List. "But you know he was a commissioner under the Moreland act and was seeking information for a future hearing. Isn't it true you gave him this list?" "It is not true."

"It is strange that the men you know gave contributions should appear on a list that Mr. Hennessey says he got from you if it is not true that you gave him the list?" "Those names are on the list."

"On the list? Do you know of any list except this one where these names appear?" "Well, they have been printed in the newspapers."

"Mr. McGuire, isn't your memory refreshed by having these names read to you from this list?" "No, I wasn't going to tell Hennessey anything, even to help the governor. I wasn't going to get in bad with people who were friends of mine."

Mr. McGuire said he didn't collect any contributions for Mr. Sulzer when he was a candidate for governor. He said he gave up collecting altogether in 1912, being of the opinion that it would hurt his business to go around asking contributions from contractors from whom he was soliciting business for his own company. He said he knew of no contributions made by the Barstow Assn. Co. Company, with which his brother, James K. McGuire, was connected for several years.

"Were you ever consulted by members of the canal or highway board as to the responsibility of contractors?" "I may have been asked occasionally."

"Is it quite usual to confer with you?" "They might speak to us."

"But didn't they?" "I don't care whether it was officially or not. Did any member of these boards speak to you about contractors' responsibility?" "It may be that the Attorney-General or the State Treasurer or the State Comptroller asked me."

"Do you recall any such conversations?" "If you don't recall any, what is it makes you think they may have talked with you?"

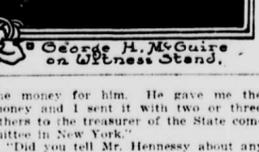
"I was often on trains the contractors were spoken of. Some one may have talked to me."

"Did it ever occur to you that there was any connection between the size of the contracts and the size of the contributions?" "No."

Hennessey on the Stand. Mr. Hennessey was then called to the stand and asked to tell about the \$2,500 contribution. He said:

"The next day I went to Mr. Schmeider and he said he would give \$1,000. I said I wouldn't handle the money and it was agreed that Stoddard should. Mr. Schiff sent him \$1,000. Then I went to Herman Hilder and he agreed to give \$1,000. I went to Mr. Lehman, the banker, but he said he and Henry Morgenthau had given so much toward the direct primary fight and would probably have to make up the deficit besides that he felt he should be released. We thought two-thirds of the money should be raised in the city and one-third up State.

"I told Gov. Sulzer we must have more



George H. McGuire on Witness Stand.

and he suggested the names of Henry P. Burgard, George McGuire, Joseph Murphy, George Foster Peabody and Thomas Mott Osborne. Burgard and Murphy gave \$1,000 each, but Mr. Rieder withdrew his offer, saying he didn't want to become involved in the matter. I went to the governor, told him I was tied up to the extent of \$2,500 and he said he would give me \$2,500. He didn't do it then, but he did later. He also told me he would ask McGuire to help me out.

Says McGuire Is Inaccurate. "Mr. McGuire is inaccurate when he says he didn't discuss his \$2,500 with me in Utica. He knew the money was not for the governor."

"He said that people up State wanted to defeat Murphy and he urged that I continue the investigations so that the results would be available in the campaign. He said he didn't want to give me a check because of his brother's affiliations and that's why he went to Syracuse to get the cash. When he gave me the money, he said he didn't want Stoddard to have a record of his contribution."

The next day Fred Southwester, superintendent of the New York Press Club, who has been tied to all my money matters for many years, came to Albany at my request and I gave him Mr. McGuire's \$2,500 and \$2,500 of my own. Here is my checkbook showing the record of the deposit made for me by Southwester. I wrote a note to Stoddard explaining how McGuire stood. He has that note and it can be brought here to substantiate my statement."

"There is no question about the money given by McGuire. It was to get men in the machine up State, and the very next day, as the records will show, Mr. Stoddard checked out \$2,000 of it to the William J. Burns Detective Agency. I used the detectives because the records up State were destroyed and when it was learned that I was after the grafters, Mr. Stoddard checked out \$2,000 of it to the Hotel Utica. I wrote down only what Mr. McGuire gave me. No one else gave me any information that is on that sheet."

It was at this point that Mr. Hennessey produced his telegram. Mr. McGuire seemed amazed as he heard it read. Then he took the stand to deny that he wrote it. The hearing will be continued at 2:30 o'clock next Tuesday.

Contractors So Far Mentioned. This is a list of the canal contractors mentioned in the hearing so far and the amount of the contracts which they got last year:

Thomas Crimmins Company, \$502,297; American Pipe and Construction Company, \$4,096,124; Shanley-Morrissey, \$1,242,281 (active); \$1,609,232 (suspended); H. S. Kerbaugh, \$2,349,677; S. Pearson & Co., \$1,032,210; Landgraf & Son, \$2,150,042; Edward M. Graves, \$618,823; Lane Bros., \$1,323,150; Aldrich & Hall, \$6,770; Casey & Murray, \$541,302; Henry P. Burgard, \$2,349,677; Great Lakes Construction Company, \$891,491; James Stewart, \$1,456,509; Scott Bros., \$2,137,146; Empire Engineering Company, \$4,261,565; United Engineering Company, \$2,232,142; Larkin & Sanger, \$1,298,110; Pittsburg Eastern Company, \$1,516,788 (suspended); Kinsey Construction Company, \$1,205,930 (active); \$223,289 (suspended); T. A. Gillespie Company, \$1,729,441; M. A. Talbot, \$1,413,015; Port Orange Construction Company, \$1,333,193; Crowl, Sherman & Stalter, \$43,325,123; Acme Engineering and Construction Company, \$5,645,634; Millard & Lupton, \$1,824,288.

In the same list appear a number of road contractors. The names of those who had contracts in 1910 and 1911 and in certain cases in 1912 are here given:

Zina Engineering and Construction Company, \$124,966; William J. Burns Company, \$75,559 and \$193,029; Bridgeport Construction Company, \$54,748; Henry P. Burgard, \$42,131; Guy B. Dickenson, \$82,247; Richard Hopkins, \$44,832; Lane Construction Company, \$195,754; Patrick H. Murray, \$157,268 and \$65,498; James Stewart, \$181,209; Schunemunk Construction Company, \$120,396; Peabody Bros., \$49,917; Larkin & Sanger, \$100,000; J. W. Walker, \$539,324 and \$35,778; John W. Weidman, \$76,843; Warren Brothers Company, \$113,955.

SULZER UPHOLDS HENNESSY. Says McGuire and Others Really Lent Money to the State.

William Sulzer said last night regarding the McGuire testimony:

"George H. McGuire gave me \$350 the day after I was nominated for governor—not \$500—and this sum was a part of the \$5,000 I gave to John H. Delaney the first part of October, 1912, to pay for the printing of the Democratic State committee, but Delaney kept this money and has never denied it. This \$5,000 embraced the first money I received as a candidate and about which so much has been said."

"Subsequently I gave Delaney the \$10,000 Allan Ryan sent to me, and Delaney gave this money to Murphy. Mr. Murphy told me afterward that he had received it. The detachment proved it."

"The testimony on my trial showed that I received about \$27,000 as donations and contributions during the time I was a candidate for governor. Of this amount \$25,000 went to Delaney to pay for the printing of the Democratic State committee. I have indicated and the other \$2,000 went to the Sulzer campaign committee, of which Delaney, Sareys, Hogan and others were members. Instead of making money as a candidate for governor, I lost money, and besides I was swindled and left by men I trusted and who betrayed me. So much for that."

"When the Legislature refused to give me the usual appropriation for the investigations and I began to uncover millions of dollars of graft throughout the State the expense of course had to be borne by citizens instead of the government. Several of my friends at my suggestion gave my investigator, Mr. Hennessey, money to pay for this work. McGuire among them—and so far as that I covered it. Mr. Hennessey \$2,500 out of my own pocket."

"These people were really lending money to the State to pay the legitimate expenses of these important investigations—their own. I don't think they should themselves. No doubt the State will reimburse these people at the proper time. If these investigations had not been stopped by the grafters and their political friends our work for honest government would now be far advanced. My removal from the governorship was decreed when I refused to call off Hennessey."

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 6.—The officials of the Millard-Lupton Company and of the American Pipe and Construction Company have no idea of assisting District Attorney Whiteman in his search for graft. Officials of the Millard-Lupton Company freely acknowledged that their concern had done work on the New York graft canal, but denied that any graft contributions had been demanded or taken. When asked if they would go to New York and answer questions, they said they would not.

SULZER TO BE HEARD ON GRAFT. Ex-Governor May Have Something to Say Next Week.

Next week ex-gov. Sulzer may have something important to say relative to graft investigations according to a typewritten sheet given out from Mr. Sulzer's headquarters in the Broadway Central Hotel yesterday. He wouldn't say anything further as to what he has in mind.

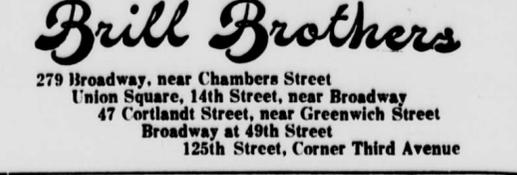
Sulzer declined to make any statement for publication as to his immediate future movements, but he expects to spend the week end with friends in the country. Jay W. Forrest, Sulzer's Progressive friend from Albany, put forth an interview with himself, which, coming from the Sulzer headquarters, may be significant. He said:

"Take it from me, no Democrat will ever be elected to high office in this State if opposed by Sulzer. The former governor is the great leader now in the cause of honest government and a potent force for civic righteousness."

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