

\$6,250,000 POST OFFICE IS TOO SMALL

Plan \$1,000,000 Annex to Building Opened Only Four Months Ago.

SECURITY IN STEPS FOR NEW STRUCTURE

After purchasing two full city blocks for \$1,750,000 and building therein a new New York post office for \$4,500,000 the Post Office Department may leave a site for still another structure that will cost about \$1,000,000.

A despatch from Washington printed in THE SUN yesterday told of the fight in the Department over the question of whether or not there is room enough at the imposing new central post office at Eighth avenue and Thirty-first street.

The controversy has not so hot that Postmaster-General Harrison has had to name three referees. The prospect of a million dollar building over night for the overflow from a post office set for four months old has been discussed with so much secrecy that few knew what was on foot until the despatch from Washington told of the controversy there.

Postmaster-General Edward W. Morgan says he knows nothing about the plans for an annex and that the matter is all in the jurisdiction of Elijah M. Norris, superintendent of the railway mail service here. Ask Mr. Norris if he needs more room and he will tell you that he could use a lot more platform space.

As to the plan for the annex Mr. Norris says he knows only the least bit about them, and that hearsay. He won't say whether or not he has endorsed any of the offers to provide a site and building. He says he now has 21,000 square feet of which nearly 11,000 square feet is a platform. He needs double that platform room. Asked if he needed five or six or seven times as much room, which the offered sites contain, Mr. Norris wouldn't answer.

The new post office was opened last September 6, and now the railway mail service says it hasn't more than half the platform room it needs, and others in touch with its work say it needs five or six times as many square feet to work in. The amazing growth of the parcel post is blamed. This is partly due to the rapid extensions of the weight limit for parcels.

At least five sites offered. Without particularly consulting the railway mail service people here the Department at Washington made a list of five sites for a new structure to stand close to the new post office and serve as an annex. At least five sites fairly close to Eighth avenue and Thirty-first street have been offered, and with the others that have been sent to Washington sketches and rough plans for a building. If the Postmaster-General doesn't veto the project a contract will be made within a month to put up an annex of marble and granite to the \$6,250,000 palace opened less than four months ago.

Three of the five or more building propositions submitted to Postmaster-General Joseph Stewart came from the Penn Post Realty company, a New York corporation, of which James J. Cassidy is president. Mr. Cassidy is vice-president of the Postal Transfer Service, Inc., which has the government contract to move mail in this city. He said yesterday that several other men are associated with him in the realty company, which has its office where Mr. Cassidy makes it, which is generally in his own office at First avenue and Forty-third street.

The sites submitted by Mr. Cassidy's company are on Thirty-first street, running through to Thirty-third street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues, which is opposite the south end of the new post office; on Thirty-third street, running through to Thirty-fourth street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues, or opposite the north end of the post office; and on Thirty-third street, running through to Thirty-fourth street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues, as does the new post office itself.

Action by Congress Needed. The city's appraisal of one of the sites offered by Mr. Cassidy's company is \$28,000. The appraisal of another is \$512,000. The government would require a building conforming architecturally with the post office and as much marble lined as that building. It would cost somewhere around \$1,000,000. In the opinion of those interested ground and building would be leased for ten years.

At present there is a limit of \$50,000 to \$100,000 a year which the Post office Department may pay as rent for such an annex. Some of those who have submitted offers think that it will be impossible to get any one to put up an annex and lease it for that rental. It is said that to erect the sort of structure the government would insist on having and lease land and all would result in a yearly rental of \$140,000 if the contractor is to make a reasonable profit. Action by Congress will be necessary before the Post Office Department can pay so high a rent. The sites submitted range from 29,000 square feet to 75,000 square feet at the street level.

COLD KEEPS FIREMEN BUSY.

Suffering Humanity and Automatic Alarms Share Responsibility.

The cold wave of yesterday was productive of an unusual number of fires. Out of twenty-nine calls which the department answered between midnight and early afternoon the great majority were due to the effects of shivering persons either to use their heating apparatus to the danger point or to thaw out water pipes. A defective chimney or two was discovered, and a hot water boiler at 229 East Forty-first street burst, scalding two people, but no serious damage was done.

As it grew warmer in the afternoon the automatic alarms and sprinkler systems in stores seemed to feel the change, for several went off for no other apparent reason.

DENIES ECONOMY DELAYS.

Adams Says Coal Shortage Is Not Cause of Hydrant Troubles.

Fire Commissioner Adams said yesterday that the intimation that his orders for coal economy had anything to do with the delay in thawing out hydrants at the West Twenty-fourth street fire Saturday night was ridiculous. His orders, he said, had no effect on the amount of steam pressure that is always kept up and the supply of coal in hand in the stations.

Everything possible is done by the department to keep hydrants open in cold weather, he added, the principal safeguard being salt.

CHAMP CLARK'S DAUGHTER, GENEVIEVE, IS ENGAGED

She Will Become the Bride of James M. Thomson of New Orleans.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The Speaker and Mrs. Champ Clark announced tonight the engagement of their daughter, Genevieve, to James M. Thomson of New Orleans. The wedding will take place in the spring or early summer at the Clark home in Bowling Green, Mo.

Miss Clark and Mr. Thomson first met at the Baltimore convention, where Mr. Thomson went in the interest of the Speaker. Miss Clark is one of the most popular of the young girls in official circles in Washington, having made her debut just a year ago.

Mr. Thomson was graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1897 and was only 19 when he finished at the university. He is a native of Virginia, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Augustus Pembroke Thomson of Summit Point, W. Va., and is editor and publisher of the New Orleans Item.

Miss Clark is one of the picturesque young women in official society. She has a reputation for originality. It was the Speaker's daughter who conceived the idea of a nationwide department store sale of cotton goods and who was more instrumental than anybody else in starting the recent movement among the women of the country for the purchase of cotton dresses.

Before her debut Miss Clark was a student of the Friends' School here, but she did not graduate, although she has pursued many of her studies since. She is fond of society, chooses her friends deliberately and chiefly for their personalities.

Miss Clark is an ardent suffragist. She went out to meet the famous hikers from New York when they went to Washington a year ago and marched with the "marchers for women" party on both occasions when they paraded in Washington. She has frankly used her influence with her father for the cause, but she is not a militant.

Miss Clark is interested in civic improvements, works with the women's welfare department of the Civic Improvement Society, is an advocate of temperance as the W. C. T. U. sees it, a S. P. U. G., and does not approve of the modern dances as they were exploited before the recent wave of reform hit them. She loves dancing, but did none of it last year because, as she put it, she did "not dance the new dances."

When Miss Clark met her fiance at the Baltimore convention he was the original "man from Louisiana," and was there not only for his paper but as a "rooster" for Clark. He was invited to Miss Clark from that time. He is 26 years old, nearly 15 years older than his fiancee. His two sisters, Dorothy and Imogene, are close friends of his fiancee and have visited her here several times. They were members of her house party a year ago when she made her debut, and she has visited them several times at Summit Point. Last spring she went with them and their mother to New Orleans to attend the Mardi Gras.

Miss Clark is an only daughter and she and her father are real chums.



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FINDS NO LAXITY OF TAX APPRAISERS HERE

Deputy State Comptroller Buckley Gives Figures Showing Energy of Office.

Deputy State Comptroller Edward W. Buckley made public yesterday a statement concerning the work done in the New York office of the State Comptroller during the administration of William Sawyer, suggesting that the criticism of money collector for transfer taxes on decedents' estates in the past four years was \$19,771,457 more than in the previous four years. The amount collected in the four years ended in 1913 was \$15,881,992, while the collections since that time total \$23,633,450.

Deputy Comptroller Buckley's statement was occasioned by a criticism of the work of the New York office ascribed to Comptroller-elect Travis, in which it was made to appear that the employees of the New York office, including the tax appraisers, have not been over diligent and for that reason a "clean sweep" of all the Democratic appointees would be made.

Mr. Buckley's statement shows that during the past four years 10,741 estates were referred to the office by the Surrogate for taxation, and in that period 11,442 reports were filed. For twelve months of that period the appraisers were Republicans, who held office pending a decision as to their status under the civil service law. When the Democratic appraisers took charge of the work there were 3,181 cases pending, which have been disposed of by the new administration in addition to the new cases sent to the office.

Under the administration of Comptroller Sawyer the entire procedure in transfer tax cases has been changed," said Mr. Buckley. "During the previous administration the amount of the work taken was inconsiderable, but Comptroller Sawyer has made it a rule that every estate be investigated thoroughly, and oral and written testimony has been taken. It is the hope of the city of New York will sustain me in the statement that during the past four years proceedings in transfer tax cases in the New York office of the State Comptroller have been handled more expeditiously than at any time in the history of the office."

THOUSANDS SKATE IN PARKS.

One Glider Falls and Breaks His Left Ankle.

Conditions yesterday were ideal for young and old gliders in all the city parks where skating is permitted. It seemed as though every one who had a pair of skates put them on in the afternoon. All four lakes in Central Park were crowded with skaters of both sexes. On the big lake below the Huddle the greatest number gathered and there was more or less good natured jostling because of that fact.

One mishap was reported during the afternoon. Joseph Edwards, 44, a wholesale liquor dealer of 111 East Eleventh street, fell while "spreading the eagle" and broke his left ankle. A Flower Hospital ambulance took him home.

In Van Cortlandt Park many thousands enjoyed the ice, and Prospect Park in Brooklyn had one of its biggest days of any winter.

AGED WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH

Dress of Widow, 80 Years Old, Catches Fire From Gas Stove.

Mrs. Josephine Edwards, a widow, 80 years old, was burned to death last night in her home at 623 Jefferson avenue, Brooklyn, where she lived with her widowed sister, Mrs. Mary Gasson. Mrs. Gasson was on one of the upper floors and Mrs. Edwards was in the dining room, seated near a gas stove. Her dress must have been ignited from the stove.

Mrs. Gasson ran down when she heard her sister scream and saw her enveloped in flames. Her cries for help brought Police Officer of the tower adjacent station. He tried to beat out the flames, but without success, and the firemen were called. Mrs. Edwards was dead when an ambulance arrived from Bushwick Hospital.

CHEER UP! WARMER TO-DAY.

Cold Wave Troubles End, Unless You Worry Over Bismarck, N. D.

The unusually still, clear frostiness of the day after Christmas, resembling much the calm lull of some Western blizzards, vanished from these parts yesterday morning. At 4 A. M. the mercury had dropped to 6 degrees above zero, which is only two more than it touched on Saturday morning. The normal humidity of the sea edge came back yesterday afternoon with a maximum temperature of 26 at 3:40. The breeze was mostly from the west and very gentle, hardly lifting flags from staffs—the few flags that float on Sunday.

The cold wave had spent itself completely at 8 o'clock last night in nearly all parts of the United States. The coldest station under the dominion of the Weather Bureau was Bismarck, N. D., which had the minimum of 2 below. There was no disturbance on the chart likely to change the forecast of the Washington series of clear skies and "somewhat warmer" today.

Wary of Quarrels, Kills Himself.

Hiding good-by to his wife in a note in which he said he was weary of constant quarrels, Walter Roundtree, 28, a notary, turned on the gas in his bedroom at 338 St. Nicholas avenue, Ridgewood, Queens borough, yesterday morning. He was dead when his wife returned to the house later in the day.



Sale of Youths' Suits!

The Lucky Chests are sizes 32, 33, 34 and 35.

Fancy mixtures; blue and black serges.

52 were \$16.00.

334 " \$18.00.

331 " \$20.00.

226 " \$22.00.

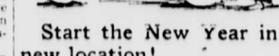
219 " \$25.00.

71 " \$28.00.

\$15 to-day.

ROGERS PEET COMPANY

Three Broadway Stores at Warren St. 13th St. 34th St.



Start the New Year in a new location!

The Rogers Peet Building will be ready in January—whole floors.

At Fifth Avenue and 41st Street, with 42nd Street entrance.

Plans and prices from the agents.

HORACE S. ELY & CO., 489 Fifth Avenue, City.

MANY GIRLS IN SOUTH JOIN CANNING CLUBS

General Education Board Reports Success of Plan to Improve Farm Life.

TOMATOES BRING INCOME

Remarkable results of a Girls' Canning Club movement similar to the Boys' Corn Clubs, which were organized in an effort to reform the economic life of the farmer, are described in an installment of the forthcoming report of the General Education Board, which promoted the movement jointly with the Department of Agriculture.

The movement began near Aiken, S. C., where Miss Marie Cromer purchased a canning outfit for girls to teach them to grow and canning, the aim being to reform the life on farms so that family incomes may be increased by means of simple work in and about the home; and also to encourage cooperation in domestic tasks between mothers and daughters, and encourage rural families to provide better food at lower cost.

"The method is simple," the report states. "Each girl takes one-tenth of an acre and is taught how to select the seed, to plant, cultivate and perfect the growth of the tomato plant. Meanwhile portable canning outfits have been provided, to be set up out of doors, and trained teachers of domestic science instruct the local teachers."

"When the tomatoes are ripe the girls come together, now at one home, now at another, to can the product. The girls are taught the necessity of scrupulous cleanliness; they sterilize utensils and cans, seal and label, and indeed manufacture an easily marketable product.

"Three hundred and twenty-five girls were registered in the first year, and next, 23,550 in the year following; in 1913 there were upward of 50,000 in fourteen different States.

The expenses of the work is borne by the general Education Board and by contributions. In 1911 \$5000 was appropriated for it, but that was increased to \$15,000 in May last year. The States of Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas have furnished the clubs.

About this phase the report continues: "The average profit made by girls reporting in twelve States was \$21.93, but not a few made sums far in excess. A Macon county, Mississippi, girl realized a net profit just under \$100 on her 550 cans of tomatoes.

Fire Victims Identified.

The man and woman who were burned to death in bed just after midnight in a furnished room house at 37 June street were identified as Andrew Hahn, 40 years old, and his wife, Mary, 32.

SAYS THERE IS NEED OF 'PEOPLE'S BUREAU'

Commissioner of Weights and Measures Reports Extra Work Done for Public.

MANY COMPLAINTS HEARD

Commissioner of Weights and Measures Joseph Hartigan has forwarded to the Department of Finance at the latter's request a communication showing the matters in addition to the general duties assigned to the bureau which it has taken up since May 1 last.

"These matters," the Commissioner says, "might properly come within its scope, in view of the relationship of the bureau with the public."

Shortly after the outbreak of the European war, when a panic condition affected prices of food commodities, at the suggestion of Commissioner Hartigan the Mayor appointed a citizens' committee on food supply, headed by George W. Perkins. For sixty days employees in the bureau's clerical, inspection and mechanical divisions conducted investigations into foodstuff supplies and prices, the results of which enabled the Mayor's food supply committee to assist in bringing a degree of relief to the situation.

Cooperating with associations of advertising men, Commissioner Hartigan and his subordinates have conducted investigations of industrial misbranding and deceitful advertising appearing in newspapers and magazines with a view to preparing cases for prosecution by the District Attorney in Greater New York. At the instance of local boards of trade and chambers of commerce, the bureau has carried on investigations of fake sales stores and fake auctions.

"In some cases," Mr. Hartigan says, "the same investigation has corrected the practice. In other cases the evidence presented to district attorneys resulted in the convictions of offenders."

The "made in the U. S. A." movement was started by the Commissioner a few days after the war began, and as a part of the movement a programme was instituted by him to bring to the United States commercial buyers from republics in Central and South America.

"From the nature of this supplemental work," Commissioner Hartigan says, "it will be seen there is great need for the establishment of a functional part of the city administration, of some character through which might flow those things dealing intimately with the trade and commerce of the city, and which might give opportunity to the public either by suggestion to improve conditions in trade and commerce or to air its grievances in matters where fraud or deceit exists."

"The Mayor's Bureau of Weights and Measures, by reason of its peculiar connection with the public—and the work of which virtually finds an echo in the homes—is to some degree a 'people's bureau,' and that makes it a magnet which draws miscellaneous matters."

Battles in Tenement Homes

WHEN SICKNESS CAUSES POVERTY.

Sickness is a constant menace to the economic independence of the lower grade wage earners.

The most obvious way, of course, to stop the misery and destitution which it causes is to prevent the sickness. But until large preventive measures are more universally brought to bear on the diseases that break down the working efficiency of so large a part of our population, there is need for us to follow the example of the Good Samaritan in relieving the suffering, binding up the wounds and supplying to those who lie bruised and broken by the wayside the means by which they shall be restored to efficiency and health.

We must, therefore, secure for the needy sick the best medical treatment either at home or in hospitals, relieve their physical needs, give appropriate "after care" and instruct in wise hygienic methods to prevent a recurrence of the illness.

"Will you call to-day on a family living at No. — East — Street? The father is seriously ill and the family is in need of food."

This was one of the calls for help that came to us last January. When the nurse first called the man was suffering from an illness that could not effectively be treated in the home.

He had worked steadily at his job until pain and weakness compelled him to stop. He was persuaded to enter a hospital, where he remained for six weeks' treatment.

The mother, too, was dangerously near a complete physical breakdown through worry and overwork to provide for the family during her husband's illness. She and the children were, therefore, sent away to the country for three weeks of rest and recuperation.

On their return a weekly sum was given to the family and this was continued until the father was able, without danger, to return to his work. During the past year the Bureau spent \$30,782.58 in providing relief for 1,532 families where sickness had temporarily incapacitated the breadwinner.

This, however, does not represent the sum total of the Association's expense and effort in combating disease and relieving the misery and destitution which follow in its wake.

In addition we gave assistance in 367 other homes where tuberculosis was the obvious cause of dependency. Visitors and nurses must constantly go into these homes, directing suspected cases regularly to attend the city's tuberculosis clinics, arranging for the removal of incipient cases to sanatoria and urging others in more advanced stages to go to hospitals.

Often the afflicted one is the only or chief breadwinner of the family, and for a time, at least, the care will equal that required to restore widows' families.

During the past year the Bureau spent for relief of this group of 367 families \$17,774.16, in addition to caring for families in our Home Hospital.

Will you help us with your contribution to restore the needy sick to health and self-support?

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE POOR

Cornelius N. Bliss, Jr., President, R. Fulton Cutting, Chairman, Finance Committee, George Blagden, Treasurer.

Room 211, 105 EAST 22nd STREET

This advertisement is not paid for by this Association, but by a friend who wishes to spread the gospel of efficient charity. Watch for next week's bulletin "OUR OWN NEEDY."

EVENING SUN'S MOVING PICTURES OF THE WAR

2:30, 4:00, 7:30, 9:00 P. M.

The Boys Smile in the Midst of Desolation.

Handsome boys---the European soldiers---all of them---Belgian, German, French, Irish, English, Russian---and in the strife that has made the Continent a shambles---in the direst distress ---you can see them smile. They are grim with strain and suffering and constantly facing the inevitable Reaper --- but their spirit is in them so they smile. You can see them smiling in The Evening Sun's remarkable moving pictures of the war. It seems a shame to destroy all these sturdy young men to satisfy the dynastic whims of kings when the trouble might have been settled by peace congresses---but they are in it now hammer and tongs and these fine men seem to have resigned themselves to fate. So they smile on the slightest provocation. You may be sure tears are close to laughter not only in the young warriors but also in every one attending these performances of The Evening Sun's moving pictures at Carnegie Hall, and he or she who is not moved is a wretched hard heart and less than human. Put yourselves in their places---that gaunt-looking German pulling the trigger of the big field gun left his desk and comfortable home to thus explode powder and kill other human beings---that burly Russian to the right, black bearded and mighty in proportions, is a big fur merchant in Petrograd---those four handsome young Frenchmen firing their rifles without aim at the German detachment crossing a bridge are young society men known to all the charming hostesses in Paris drawing rooms ---those stalwart English royal guards walking right down into the audience beside their horses are all young gentlemen of good family and high standing in London. And those Belgians running with the dog-drawn mitrailleuses are college men, sons of prominent and rich families in Belgium. The rank and file is never responsible for a war---their country calls and the principle of the greatest good for the greatest number inspires them to leave everything in life that is worth while and to dash into the thick of the fray. Americans and descendants of all other nations can see in The Evening Sun's moving pictures how their brothers abroad are merely pawns of fate.

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10c, 25c, 50c UNTIL JANUARY 3D

CARNEGIE HALL