CONNERS DECLARES CROKER'S MIND KEEN

Buffalo Politician Asserts Aged Leader Is as Good a Fighter as Ever.

PAIR IN PERFECT ACCORD

Veteran Discusses Business With Wife, but His Decisions Dominate.

Special to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.

PALM BEACH, Fla., April 3.—William J. (Fingy) Conners staunchly defended to-day his lifelong friend, Richard Croker, in an interview here in which he told what his testimony will be when called upon to bear witness to the competency of the former Tammany chieftain at the trial of the action begun by his sons, Richard, Jr., and Howard. Mr. Conners asserted Mr. Croker's mind is as clear as it ever was and cited as evidence of his keenness of foresight his real estate operations here, which are said to have netted him millions of dollars. Mr. Croker was described by Mr. Conners as possessing "the same fighting ability to-day that he had thirty years ago."

"If those two boys Howard and Dick, Jr., come down here any more we'll give them a dose of their own medicine," Mr. Conners said after denouncing the charges of mental incompetency. "There are a lot of good citizens around this place that are mighty fond of Mr. and Mrs. Croker, Sr., and we're going to have the State Examiner for the insane come here and find out why it is that these two young fellows are so mind wandering. If anybody thinks that Richard Croker, Sr., is not of sound mind let him try to sell him something or take something from him."

Mr. Conners in the course of his remarks brought out the fact that Richard Croker, Jr., had reaped a fortune in profits from the Roebling contract, which, he said, the son obtained through his father, although they were estranged at the time. In telling of Mr. Croker's real estate operations here Mr. Conners said that he bought waterfront property which is now selling for from $50 to $60 a front foot at from $7 to $8 a foot.

Mr. Conners made an affidavit to-day describing his long acquaintance with Mr. Croker and telling what he knew of the latter's real estate transactions.

"Of my own personal knowledge all these investments have been handled by him and at his direction," Mr. Conners states in the affidavit. "And from forty years of intimate association with him I swear positively that his mind and judgment are at the present time as keen and sound as at any time during his entire career. I know Mrs. Bula Croker to be a woman of refinement and high character and I have never known of the slightest disagreement between her and Mr. Croker. I know of no two persons who are more in accord.

"In business matters Richard Croker discusses everything with her with the utmost freedom, but she always defers to his judgment. His is the dominating, controlling mind. His mind is as sound and active to-day as it was when he was leader of Tammany Hall and dominated New York politics."

"Richard Croker, Jr.," said Mr. Conners, in discussing the son's visit, "came into my office the other day and sat down. I had not seen him in some years and at first I didn't know who he was. I gave him a look and I said: 'The last time I saw you it was to do your father a favor that made you a rich man, and it didn't cost you a dollar.'

"Then he says: 'Why, Mr. Conners, there never was a kinder hearted man nor a better man in the world to his children than my father was to his family. Up to the time he got married he practically bought everything he owned in my name, and when he came back from Ireland he made me deed all the property back to him. I do not want nor do any of my family want any of his money. I want to bring him into court and prove to him that in handling the estate of my mother for the rest of the children I did what was honest.'

"'Well,' I said, 'Richard, if you said that to your father, there is no question but that you and he would get along all right. But,' I said, 'I thought that you were jealous of him getting married. I want to tell you, Dick Croker, you father's done manya the smart things, but the smartest one he ever did was the day he married the present Mrs. Croker.'

"Then I described the companionship which exists between Mr. and Mrs. Croker, the most lovelliest in the world. Since Dick got married to her if you find Dick you find his wife, be it night or day. Once I went up to his place and couldn't find any one. Finally I went around to the side and there they were both up a ladder, painting the house. That will show what I mean by both working together. That's what I call being happy, and if now these boys want to have a commission appointed and him taken away from her in his old age, when he needs her worst, I want to say for one it ain't going to be done.

"Put yourself in his place. What a foolish thing it would be for him to be wandering around the world and have no woman looking after him. I always claimed he was a lucky man. When he got married to this one she got 20 per cent. and he got about 80. She carries well, is good looking and a lovely disposition. If Old Man Croker didn't have a lot of money these two kids of his wouldn't be down here looking after his insanity.

"And all these other allegations about his wife not being this and not being that make me think, the more I do think of it, with everybody knowing to the contrary, that these two boys of his must be plumb crazy. The whole matter is the biggest joke that was ever brought into a court. About their contentions concerning Mrs. Croker, I think these boys are taking a chance, and I don't know where this thing will finish.

"Old Dick licked young Dick once, and I wouldn't put it past him to do it again. Young Dick said he was going to lick his pop, and he went over to Ireland for it. He walked right up to his old man and he hit him in the jaw. Old Dick swung back and the boy went sprawling. He dropped him twice. I'll say that old Dick has the same fighting ability to-day that he had thirty years ago; not quite so strong, but its the same kind and just as clear headed. A fellow that done him dirt held give a poke in the jaw to-day if he knew he was to fall dead the next minute."

CROKER'S FRIENDS DEFEND HIS WIFE

M. W. Littleton Says Her Character Has Been "Wickedly Misrepresented."

KNEW HER ANTECEDENTS

Nathan Straus, in Whose Home She Was Married, Tells Her History.

Old friends of Richard Croker, Sr., are rallying to the defence of the one time Tammany colleague and his more youthful wife. Few residents of New York, if any, have been more closely associated with them during a long period of years than have Martin W. Littleton, the lawyer, and Mrs. Littleton. They were present at the wedding ceremony in 1914.

Mr. Littleton said yesterday that Mrs. Croker's character had been "wickedly misrepresented" in the depositions and complaint filed in the Florida Circuit Court in support of the effort to restrain her from any active part in the management of her husband's estate.

"Mrs. Littleton and myself," said Mr. Littleton, "met Mrs. Croker, then Miss Edmondson, a long time before she had ever met Mr. Croker. We also knew her family in Oklahoma. She attended a private school in New York, and occasionally, when invited to do so, would give readings and songs about her own people, the Indians of Oklahoma.

"Clean Hearted Young Woman."

"She is well educated, gentle, refined and talented. She was at our home and we knew her well. I never have met a more high minded, clean hearted young woman. The wisdom or unwisdom of a young woman marrying an elderly man is a matter which people may discuss, especially since it is none of their business. But so far as Mrs. Croker is concerned, I am absolutely sure that she married Mr. Croker without design or scheme and with a single minded devotion.

"I have been moved to say this because it is absolutely cruel to attack a young woman of such fine character and gentle breeding."

Oscar Saenger, in whose studio, at 6 East Eighty-first street, Miss Edmondson was trained musically before her marriage, said he remembered the Indian girl as a studious, hard worker, a gentlewoman in every respect, who had a good contralto voice. "She was not of a frivolous nature," he added, "and during the season of 1913-14, in which I helped place and cultivate her voice, I found her a charming young woman of high character and good breeding."

Nathan Straus, in whose home the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Croker, Sr., took place, made public directly after the ceremony a voluminous statement concerning the bride and her Indian antecedents. It was published by New York newspapers on November 27, 1914, the day after the wedding, and, so far as is known, none of the assertions made therein was challenged at the time by any of the Croker children.

"Known as Princess Sequoyah."

"Miss Bula Benton Edmondson," Mr. Straus said, "whose Indian name is Kotaw Kaluntuchy, was married yesterday to Richard Croker, former leader of Tammany. The bride is a member of the Cherokee tribe, by whom she is known as the Princess Sequoyah. She was given away by her uncle, W. W. Hastings, who for fifteen years has been attorney for the Cherokee Nation and has just been elected to Congress.

"The bridesmaids were Miss Francis Fite, a senior at Vassar, daughter of Dr. B. F. Fite of Muskogee, Okla.; Miss Ethel Brown of Dayton, Ohio, who has been Miss Edmondson's accompanist, and Miss Willia Townsend of Memphis, Tenn.

"After the wedding ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Straus gave a wedding breakfast for the bridal party and a few intimate friends of the couple at the Straus town house at 27 West Seventy-second street.

"The bride was born on a ranch in the eastern part of Oklahoma, near Tahlequah, the Cherokee capital. Her father, Michael Smith Edmondson, was a descendant of Lord Montgomerie, Earl of Eglinton, whose ancestor, Roger de Montgomerie, commanded the van of the Norman army in the battle of Hastings in 1066. Eglinton Castle, the ancestral seat of the family, is in the County of Ayr, Scotland.

"While travelling in the West Edmondson met and married Galela Welch (Florence William Hastings), direct descendant of the famous Sequoyah, who invented the Cherokee alphabet of eighty-six characters. His father was Nathaniel Gist, who was Washington's guide on the expedition to the Ohio.

"Besides Bula there were two daughters, Cherokee, whose husband, R. B. Garrett of Pryor, Okla., is nephew of the chief of the Cherokees, and Gonia, wife of G. B. Tinnin of Tahlequah.

"Miss Edmondson was educated at the Cherokee National Seminary for Indian Girls at Tahlequah and at Chicago University; for three years she was a student under Dr. Curry at the School of Expression in Boston, and for one year a student of the voice in New York under Oscar Saenger and Frederick Hayward.

"Her ambition was to show the American Indians in their true light to the white people, to tell of their manners and customs, to picture their ideals, sorrows and bravery, to interpret their songs, legends and dances. To accomplish this she went on the lecture platform, illustrating her description of her people with selections from the three hundred Indian legends and the hundred Indian songs that she had collected.

Has Income of Her Own.

"She is proud of her Indian ancestry and the Cherokees are proud of her as a college girl, poet, lecturer, ranch owner and business woman. Her ranch of 640 acres has orchards containing over 1,000 apple trees and yields an income of $10,000 a year.

"She met Mr. Croker in Kansas City in 1900 at the Democratic National Convention that nominated Bryan for the second time for the Presidency. He became interested in her zeal to make her people better understood. Speaking of this yesterday, the bride said:

"'I have been inspired by the example of Pocahontas, who did so much to make the English people understand our race. Then there was Sacawagea, the bird woman, who piloted the Lewis and Clark expedition 3,000 miles and made it a success. On the way back, in crossing the Missouri, her husband, a renegade Frenchman, upset the canoe carrying the records of the expedition. She dived again and again until she had saved all the valuable papers and trophies. I also find inspiration in Talahina, the Cherokee maiden who helped Sam Houston to free Texas.

"'But,' she added, 'it is the dearest ambition of every Indian girl to win a chief, and (turning to Mr. Croker) I have won the chief of men.'"

Soviets Raid Petrograd Homes.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—To provide pay for its commissars and other high officials, the Russian Soviet Government conducted recently wholesale raids on homes in Petrograd in which gold articles and other jewelry were seized, according to despatches to-day to the State Department. The raids were so extensive, it is said, that the week is known as "Golden Week."

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MR. C. F. DIETERICH

963 FIFTH AVENUE

¶ This collection of 144 paintings was gathered over a period of forty years by an enthusiastic collector who was guided by a desire to obtain what was beautiful in art and not merely by well-known names. It is being sold on account of death in the family. The two tapestries are important and beautiful examples of the best period of tapestry weaving in Flanders.

¶ *To be sold Thursday, Friday evenings, April 8, 9, at 8:15 o'clock.*

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Good Furniture has doubled—in many instances trebled—in cost. Most people know this, and we are careful therefore to state the exact facts that you may know how and why we are legitimately able to offer Furniture of the finest grades produced, so far below the prices you would expect to pay.

We carry at all times a highly varied and unusually large stock—consequently we are compelled to provide long in advance of our needs. Our floors are filled today with Furniture from our warehouses that was completed long before prices began to climb, a fact that enables us to sell with absolute disregard for the cost to produce today. Accordingly it is actually true that the offerings we make are about on a level with present production cost.

In another season we cannot manufacture at the prices we sell on this Anniversary Occasion.

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Queen Anne American Walnut Suite, 10 pieces	$495.50	Sheraton Mahogany Suite, 9 pieces	$995.00
Adam American Walnut Suite, 10 pieces	$595.00	Hepplewhite Mahogany Suite, 10 pieces	$650.00
Italian Motif, Walnut Suite, 9 pieces	$675.00	Adam Mahogany Suite, 10 pieces	$568.00
Chippendale Walnut Suite, 10 pieces	$1185.00	William & Mary Mahogany Suite, 10 pieces	$488.00
Colonial Mahogany Suite, 10 pieces	$763.00	Hepplewhite Mahogany Suite, 8 pieces	$445.00

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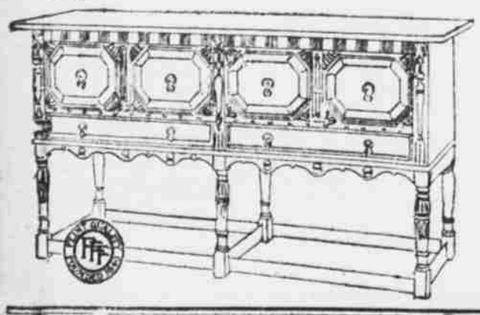

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There is a new method of teeth cleaning used on millions of teeth today. Wherever you look you can see the results—teeth that glisten, teeth uniquely clean.

Those envied teeth are simply daily treated for cloudy, clinging film. And the method is at your call. A request will bring it to you, and your own teeth in a week will show you what it does.

The Trouble is Film

Teeth become coated with a film. That viscous film which you feel with your tongue clings to teeth. It enters crevices and stays.

The tooth brush does not end it. The ordinary dentifrice does not dissolve it. The soapy tooth paste even helps it cling.

Twice a year, perhaps, you have a dentist remove it. But in the meantime it may do a ceaseless damage. Thus millions find that, despite all brushing, teeth discolor and decay.

Tooth troubles have been constantly increasing. Few people have escaped them. And the modern dentist knows that most of them have been caused by film.

How Film Wrecks Teeth

It is this film-coat that discolors—not the teeth. Film is the basis of tartar. It holds food substance which ferments and forms acid. It holds the acid in contact with the teeth to cause decay.

Millions of germs breed in it. They, with tartar, are the chief cause of pyorrhea.

Dentists long have known this. Dental science has for years been seeking a film combatant, and now it has been found. Able authorities have proved its efficiency by clinical and laboratory tests.

The method is now embodied in a dentifrice called Pepsodent. With it are combined two other modern requisites. Leading dentists everywhere are urging its daily use. And millions of people have already discovered its effects.

The New-Day Method

Pepsodent is based on pepsin, the digestant of albumin. The film is albuminous matter. The object of Pepsodent is to dissolve it, then to constantly combat it.

But pepsin must be activated, and the usual agent is an acid harmful to the teeth. So this method long seemed barred. Science, however, has discovered a harmless activating method, and active pepsin can be every day employed.

Authorities agree that this tooth paste meets other new requirements. So it represents in three ways the ideal modern dentifrice. And it means a new era in teeth cleaning.

Let It Prove Itself

The results of Pepsodent are quick and apparent. Anyone can feel and see them. One can never doubt after one week's use that it must supplant old methods.

So a 10-Day Tube is being sent to everyone who asks. A book goes with it to explain all the effects. In every home someone should try it, for film removal is of very great importance. Send the coupon for a ten-day test, and judge the results for yourself.

Compare your teeth now with your teeth in ten days, and you will never return to old methods.

Millions Now See the Results

Millions of people have already made this ten-day test. They see the results in whiter teeth, and they know the teeth are safer.

Make the test which they made. Send the coupon for a 10-Day Tube. Note how clean the teeth feel after using. Mark the absence of the slimy film. See how the teeth whiten as the fixed film disappears.

Then remember that film is the great tooth wrecker. Its constant removal may entirely change the future of your teeth. Cut out the coupon so you won't forget.

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