28 INJURED WHEN CITY BUS COASTS

Strikes Telephone Pole at Bottom of Hill at St. George, Staten Island.

EIGHT SENT TO HOSPITALS

Loaded Far Beyond Capacity and Brakes Fail to Work.

A municipal bus left the municipal ferry house at St. George, Staten Island, yesterday afternoon at 5:30 o'clock with between thirty-five and forty men, women and children packed into a space that provided accommodations for less than twenty-five. The machine was owned and driven by David Dodner of 2050 Second avenue, but was being operated under the direction of the Department of Plant and Structures. According to the findings of motor experts of the Police Department who examined the car later, the brakes were defective, and Dodner was said by the police to have admitted that he had knowledge of that fact.

The bus reached the foot of the Broad street hill in Stapleton a few minutes before 6 o'clock and began the ascent. Progress was slow on account of the heavy load the machine carried, and it was several moments before Dodner came in sight of the crossing at Van Denzer street. But there, near the top of the hill, the chauffeur shifted the gears on the car and at the same time applied the brakes. The brakes, however, failed to work. The engine came to a dead stop and the bus began to back down the hill, slowly at first but gathering momentum until in a few seconds it was racing at terrific speed down the sharp decline.

Crashes Into Telephone Pole.

The thirty-five or forty persons who were jammed inside the bus knew something was wrong. They became panic stricken, but they were packed so close together that they were unable to move. No one even was able to leap from the bus before the crash that everybody knew must come when the big car reached the bottom of the hill. Dodner worked frantically with his steering gear and made strenuous efforts to start the engine and make the brakes work. But by now he neither could steer the bus nor check in the least its progress down the hill. The passengers screamed and yelled in fright, but they were standing so close together that they could do nothing to help themselves.

Half way down the hill the big bus turned sharply to the left, lurched over the sidewalk curbing and crashed with full force into a telephone post. The side and top of the bus were ripped off and flung into the street, a mass of wreckage. The passengers were hurled to the ground or pinned beneath the wreck as the bus toppled over. The crash of the collision with the pole and the frightened screams of the injured brought a large crowd, and some one sent a call for ambulances to the St. Vincent's Hospital and the Staten Island Hospital.

Injured Jammed in Wreckage.

When the ambulances arrived with physicians the police and volunteers had lifted eight badly hurt persons out of the wreckage and carried them into stores, while twenty others, slightly injured, were able to extricate themselves. The twenty were treated by the ambulance surgeons for cuts and bruises and went to their homes, while the eight were sent to the hospitals. They gave their names as follows: Mrs. Mary Blaine of 749 Van Deuzer street, Stapleton, fractured left arm; Michael Soleeito of 345 West Forty-eighth street, fractured nose; Randolph Waldrow of 462 West 141st street, fractured right arm; Howard Fletcher of 272 Third street, Jersey City, fractured right arm; Laura Buchmeister of 52 Sea View avenue, Concord, Staten Island, fractured right leg; Mrs. Dina Idotb of 50 Brighton avenue, Jersey City, fractured left arm; Joseph J. Herbert of 1899 Daley avenue, The Bronx, fractured right arm; Anthony Pontensito of 266 Newberry avenue, Concord, fractured right leg.

After the injured had been removed the bus was taken to the police station at Stapleton, where the motor experts of the department examined it and discovered, they said, that the brakes were defective. Dodner was summoned to appear before Magistrate Mullen in the Stapleton Police Court this morning at 10 o'clock.

PARMENTIER HERE TO NEGOTIATE LOAN

Hopes to Obtain 125 to 150 Millions.

France will endeavor to raise a loan of between $125,000,000 and $150,000,000, Jean Parmentier, Administrator of the Ministry of Finance of France, said yesterday on his arrival from Harve on La Lorraine of the French Line.

Although frankly stating the purpose of his visit, M. Parmentier would say little about details. During the afternoon he called at the offices of Maurice Casenave, French High Commissioner, and M. Cles of the French Financial Mission. He also went to the offices of J. P. Morgan & Co., with which firm he is expected to make arrangements for the proposed loan. He passed Mr. Morgan at sea, as the banker sailed Saturday to spend a vacation of six weeks in France and England.

"I have the complete data on the situation in my portmanteau," he said. "It will all be made public in good time, but just now nothing must be said except to reaffirm that France is financially sound, and by reason of her taxation measure is making the way clear to meet her great financial obligation in October."

The obligation referred to, it is understood, is France's share of the Anglo-French loan, which matures in October.

Although also reticent, Maurice Casenave, French High Commissioner, who met Mr. Parmentier at the French Line pier, fixed the amount of the new loan desired by France at $147,000,000. Besides M. Casenave, many high French officials on business here greeted M. Parmentier on his arrival.

AMENDS DIVORCE SO MOTHER GETS GIRL

Judge Moved by Story Child Tells in Court.

"It seems to me a terrible thing to separate a mother and child forever," said Justice Squiers in Brooklyn Supreme Court yesterday. He said he would amend a divorce decree previously granted so that eleven-year-old Dorothy Theurer might live with her mother, Mrs. Dorothy Petsiglione of 312 McDougall street, instead of her father, William Theurer of Jamaica, Queens. This despite the fact that the divorce was awarded to the father.

The child herself influenced the Judge to take this action. "I want to stay with mother," she told Justice Squiers, clinging to her mother's dress. She said she did not enjoy her visits to her father. Theurer was obliged to corroborate this, saying that although in the divorce in 1917 he was awarded custody of the child she frequently left his house and went to see her mother. The last time she went there, he said, she refused to leave and he brought habeas corpus proceedings to get her back.

Justice Squiers pointed out that Mrs. Pestiglione had no lawyer when her divorce suit was tried and had not been advised of her rights. Theurer agreed to pay his former wife $7 a week for the child's support. Both are remarried. The formalities connected with Mrs. Pestiglione's guardianship of Dorothy will be settled to-day.

HOME BREW GOADED HIM, SAYS M'GRAW

Beer With a 'Kick' Preceded Four Quarts of Whiskey and Lambs Club Fight.

SLAVIN HAS A RELAPSE

Swann Postpones Grand Jury Inquiry—Clerk to Fight Rum Sale Charge.

Owing to a sudden turn for the worse in the condition of John C. Slavin, comedian, who received a fractured skull while taking John J. McGraw home from a wild session at the Lambs Club, District Attorney Swann decided yesterday to postpone his contemplated Grand Jury inquiry and all other proposed action on the matter.

The seriousness of the actor's condition was brought to his attention by Ira A. Hawkins, one the assistant superintendents of St. Luke's Hospital, who said that Dr. Austin W. Hollis of 40 West 71st street had just examined Slavin and had reported a relapse.

In a statement issued to the press Mr. Swann said the final result of the injuries received by Slavin appeared to be quite uncertain, and that it was therefore of the utmost importance that a statement of the circumstances surrounding the case be obtained from Slavin himself if that were possible.

The leader of the Giants, despite the fact that his team has now hit the trail for other parts, remained isolated yesterday in his West Side apartment, where he received a call from August Hassenflug, counsel to James S. Shevlin, supervising prohibition enforcement agent. Mr. Hassenflug was accompanied by another Federal officer, and he sent word to McGraw that he would like him to accompany him to the office of the United States Attorney to answer questions regarding his statements that he had purchased four quarts of whiskey previous to his fight with William H. Boyd, motion picture actor, in the grill room of the Lambs Club.

McGraw Too Ill to Appear.

The baseball capitalist did not see these visitors, but sent word to them that his physician had ordered him to rest for the present, and that when he had regained his health he would be glad to call upon either Mr. Shevlin or the United States Attorney. Mr. Shevlin said later that he would wait until Mr. McGraw had recovered before proceeding further.

Certain heretofore unpublished features of the baseball man's version of the Lambs Club fracas came to light yesterday through a typewritten report by Albert Blogg Unger, Assistant District Attorney, who questioned McGraw at his home.

It appears from this that the Giants' manager began his famous tipple on "home brew" and that he pretty well "liquored up" before he started to drink his share of the four quarts of whiskey. He told Mr. Unger that he was "with three or four friends" and that they arrived at the Lambs' Club together at about 4 o'clock in the morning. These friends, he said, drifted away from him and he was alone when the altercation with Boyd started.

McGraw stated that when he proceeded to "bawl out" the persistent insurance agent, Boyd, who was shocked at hearing such language in the presence of the scrubwomen, said:

"I like you as a man. I like you as a baseball manager, but I don't like your language."

The Giants' manager explained that he had not thought about the scrubwomen until his attention was called to them in this manner. To make amends for his cuss words he thereupon gave each of the women a five dollar bill. Then he turned upon Boyd and said a few things about his total indifference to the actor's likes and dislikes and his disinclination to take rebukes from bystanders.

Asks Him if He Was Drunk.

"Were you drunk?" Mr. Unger asked him.

According to the official record, the Giants' manager replied: "I must have been because I never fight unless I'm drunk."

He said that he "had been told afterward" that he had been struck on the head with a bottle.

"Did the bottle hit you, or did you hit the bottle?" Mr. Unger inquired.

"I guess it was a case of bunching the hits," the baseball man replied. "I hit the bottle first. Then the bottle hit me."

In addition he declared that while he was stretched upon the floor at one stage of the scrimmage some one kicked him. Another member of the Lambs finally interfered in his behalf, he said, shouting: 'For God's sake, don't hit him again."

When questioned about his attitude toward Slavin, McGraw said:

"His only part in the affair was that of peacemaker. Slavin is a fine fellow. He would be the last fellow in the world I would think of hitting."

Referring to statements made by officers of the Lambs Club disclaiming responsibility for the liquor transactions of L. Ernest Smith, the night clerk of the club, who was arrested last Wednesday for violation of the Volstead Law, Ralph M. Stanton, lawyer of 277 Broadway, declared yesterday that he would not permit Mr. Smith to be "made a scapegoat of."

Mr. Stanton represents the clerk, who has been discharged from the Lambs Club since his arrest, and who is to appear to-morrow in the United States District Court in answer to the criminal charge hanging over him.

Clerk's Lawyer Promises Battle.

"I will not allow the board of directors of the Lambs Club to make statements to the public press which tend to reflect [illegible] criminal action," he said. "I am not going to permit his interests to be prejudiced by statements of officers of the Lambs Club, nor will I let them fasten any crime upon him."

He referred particularly to a statement made on Saturday by an officer of the Lambs to the effect that if McGraw bought liquor "from an employee now under arrest" the club was not responsible.

There is much "joshing" along Broadway over the troubles of the Lambs Club, and the members of the Friars are taking particular delight in rubbing it in. Whenever a Friar meets a Lamb these days he invariably puts up his arms as if in a defensive position to ward off a blow.

MRS. ROCKEFELLER LEAVES $3,312,630

Wife of Standard Oil Magnate Names Husband Heir.

Mrs. Almira G. Rockefeller, wife of William Rockefeller, of the Standard Oil Company, left a gross estate of $3,312,630, and a net estate of $3,248,500, according to the appraisal filed yesterday by the State Comptroller. Her husband is the executor and sole beneficiary.

The bulk of her securities consisted of Standard Oil stocks. In addition she had $880,712 in cash and jewelry worth $267,739. Among the items of jewlery were the following:

One string of Oriental pearls, sixty-five in number, $45,000; another string of fifty-four pearls, $40,000; a third string of pearls, fifty-nine in number, $32,000; diamond and pearl collarette, $15,945; two gold mesh bags, $500 and $250 respectively; diamond and sapphire lavalliere, $24,075; diamond and pearl brooch, $6,420; diamond and pearl brooch, $3,717.

Mrs. Rockefeller owned $30,000 of bonds of the Fourth Liberty Loan and $235,000 corporate bonds of the City of Niagara Falls.

BOOZE AND BULLETS AT SLEUTH'S PARTY

Private Detective Who Was Host Accused of Assault on Regular Cop.

HOLDUP ALSO FIGURES

Negro Chauffeur Is Robbed When He Demands Fares After Eventful Ride.

Andrew Durkin, 27 years old, who described himself as a private detective living in the Onondaga apartments, 745 Riverside Drive, was held yesterday in $10,000 bail by Magistrate Sweetser in Washington Heights Court on complaints of felonious assault that had been lodged against him by Detective Joseph Sheldrick of the Charles street station and Joseph Beckles, a negro taxicab chauffeur, of 225 West Sixty-second street.

While the reason for the charges against Durkin were not made known in the court, both Sheldrick and the negro chauffeur told a member of the District Attorney's office a story in which figured a long taxicab ride, large quantities of a forbidden fluid, a considerable amount of pistol play and a hold-up.

Beckles said he was driving a party of four men from Rockaway Beach to this city late Sunday night when they came upon another machine in which was Durkin stalled on a Long Island road. Durkin, the negro said, asked a "lift" to New York and was taken into Beckles's car. On the way to the city the private detective invited Beckles's four passengers to his home, where, it is said, he boasted there was hootch a-plenty. Beckles also was invited to join the party.

What happened in the Riverside Drive apartment was somewhat hazy to the negro, because, he said, after the first few drinks he went fast asleep. How long he slept he could not say, but his awakening was rather abrupt. A right to the jaw sent him reeling to the floor, and when he glanced up he saw Durkin standing over him with a pistol in his hand, he said. Beckles said he did not remain long in Durkin's presence, his retreat to the street being hastened by half a dozen shots, all of which went wild.

Despite this Beckles returned to the apartment house when the smoke had cleared away and the four men got into his machine. They directed that he drive them downtown, and at Charles street he was ordered to stop the machine. Glancing at the clock, Beckles noticed that it registered $40 and asked that they pay. Two of them, the negro declared, dug into their back pockets and pulled out pistols. Instead of paying the $40 the men robbed him of $15 and his watch and chain, the negro said, and then fled.

Beckles drove to the Charles street station and told his troubles to Detective Sheldrick. The detective rode around the neighborhood with the chauffeur, but the four men had disappeared, so he directed Beckles to drive him to the Riverside Drive apartments. There, Sheldrick said, he posted the negro in a downstairs hallway and proceeded to Durkin's apartment. Durkin was at first reluctant to let him in, the detective stated, but finally agreed when told the negro had been robbed.

"I took a seat," the detective continued, "and the next thing I knew Durkin was pointing a pistol at me and declaring that if I moved he would blow my head off. There was nothing I could do but sit, as he had me covered, and I sat still for nearly half an hour. I sure was sweating. It got so that I did not care whether I lived or died, so I pleaded with Durkin to shoot or put the gun away. He would do neither, so I told him there were two detectives downstairs and that there was no use of his trying to get away.

'Still covering me with the gun, he began to get dressed, saying he was going to surrender himself. He had difficulty in pulling on his pants and laid the gun on the dressing table. That was my chance. I grabbed the gun, but he grabbed me and we both fell to the floor."

Sheldrick was rather mussed up in the scuffle that followed, as his opponent had it on him by forty pounds, but he succeeded in getting handcuffs on Durkin and called a patrol wagon.

WOMAN CONFESSES PART IN SAFE THEFT

She and Two Men Are Held for Grand Jury.

Accused of stealing a safe containing antique jewelry valued at $7,000 from the home of Mrs. Elizabeth J. W. Stevens, 927 Fifth avenue, George Rubino, 26 years old, of 242 East Ninetieth street; Walter McKeon, 18, of 174 East Eighty-fifth street, and Anna Westervelt, 18, of 1412 Second avenue, were held yesterday for the Grand Jury by Magistrate Douras in Yorkville court. The bail of the young woman, who is to be a witness for the State, was fixed at $2,500 and that of the men at $10,000 each. The robbery occurred last Wednesday night.

Although her attorney advised her that she might decline to answer questions put to her, Miss Westervelt insisted upon telling detectives the details of the robbery. She said it had been planned for the previous Monday night but something went wrong with the arrangements. Rubino and his brother Frank, who is a prisoner in Harlem Hospital, and McKeon accompanied her to the house, Miss Westervelt declared, with two other men not yet under arrest, but whose names she revealed.

Two of the men climbed the rear fire escape of the Stevens home, she said, and carried the safe to the rear yard. It was put in a taxicab driven by one of the men not under arrest and taken to her home, where it was opened the following morning. The jewelry was found in a small leather case. The men then started out to pawn the jewels, in which act they were detected by detectives and arrested after a chase in which several shots were fired, one of which wounded Frank Rubino.

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