

MARTENS REVEALS SOVIET SECRETS

Discloses Mysterious Communication with Red Russia Through Secret Couriers.

ADMITS THREE WERE KILLED

Seven Bolsheviki Agents Out of Twenty Succeeded in Reaching New York.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Friday.—How the couriers of soviet Russia, carrying funds to finance its propaganda in America, ran the gauntlet of death and imprisonment in the surrounding states of Europe was a story begun but abandoned today by Ludvig C. A. K. Martens, soviet agent in the United States, before the Senate Foreign Relations sub-committee investigating Russian propaganda.

Martens flatly declined to answer further questions put to him by the committee on the subject of the couriers and left it to consider whether or not his plea of "diplomatic immunity" from further examination should be allowed while he went on to recount his personal activities in endeavoring to get his government recognized by the State Department, and in procuring provisions, contracts for \$2,000,000 worth of food, clothing and machinery with American business houses. This latter effort, he said, had resulted in placing two or three letters before President Wilson urging recognition, though the State Department had remained firm in its refusal to recognize him in any way.

Three Messengers Shot.

Out of twenty of the mysterious messengers who started during the last year from Moscow with funds and letters to Martens, said, seven had slipped through the barriers of armies and international frontiers. Several had been shot summarily in Finland—"three that I know about," Martens said casually. Of ten who tried to get through Germany, nine were caught and judged and one managed to reach him, however, carried \$30,000 and his credentials as Soviet Ambassador to the United States. The couriers carried money in the form of the Finnish mark, or Scandinavian currency, Martens said, and had various varieties of passports.

Here Martens began to evade, though Senator Moses, of New Hampshire, chairman of the committee, and Senator Brandegee, Connecticut, were prodding him on with questions to messengers routes and methods of travel and disguises.

"I decline to answer," he said finally, when asked to name one of the couriers, and repeated his words quietly when the topic was pushed further. He, too, had sent couriers, he admitted, but of their fortunes had not been advised. Altogether \$50,000 had come to him through the underground route, and also an instruction, he said, not to spend any of the money "on politics or the support of internal factions or parties in the United States."

Contracts Run Into Millions.

A list of contracts for goods entered into by Martens was submitted to the committee, with the explanation that the firms named had agreed to furnish the goods only upon condition that they were given licenses by the State Department to export the products to Soviet Russia. The largest contract cited was for \$1,500,000 worth of printing presses to be furnished by the Lehigh Machine Company, of Lehigh, Pa.

Martens said none of the goods had been shipped. "You depended on the relations opened with American business houses to help you get recognition?" Chairman Moses asked.

"Yes," Martens replied, adding that he knew of many letters and representations made by Americans friendly to the soviet movement to American officials, and speaking particularly of "at least two" which went to President Wilson from individuals who, he intimated, would likely secure a hearing.

This was Martens' second appearance before the committee, and his examination will be resumed at the next session, which will be called by Chairman Moses after Wade H. Ellis, attorney employed to conduct the investigation, has recovered from his illness.

Asks Executive Session.

At the outset of the hearing today former Senator Hardwick, of Georgia, counsel for the "Ambassador," told the committee that Martens would present true copies of all communications between himself and the soviet government, but that it was desired that some of the letters be considered in executive session, as it might involve the safety of persons who have kept open the lines of communication between Martens and his government.

Before the committee continues the inquiry it will decide whether to grant the request for an executive session, and also whether it will require Martens to give the names of the couriers carrying communications between himself and his government.

Would Shield Girl Her Husband Loved

(Continued from Page One.)

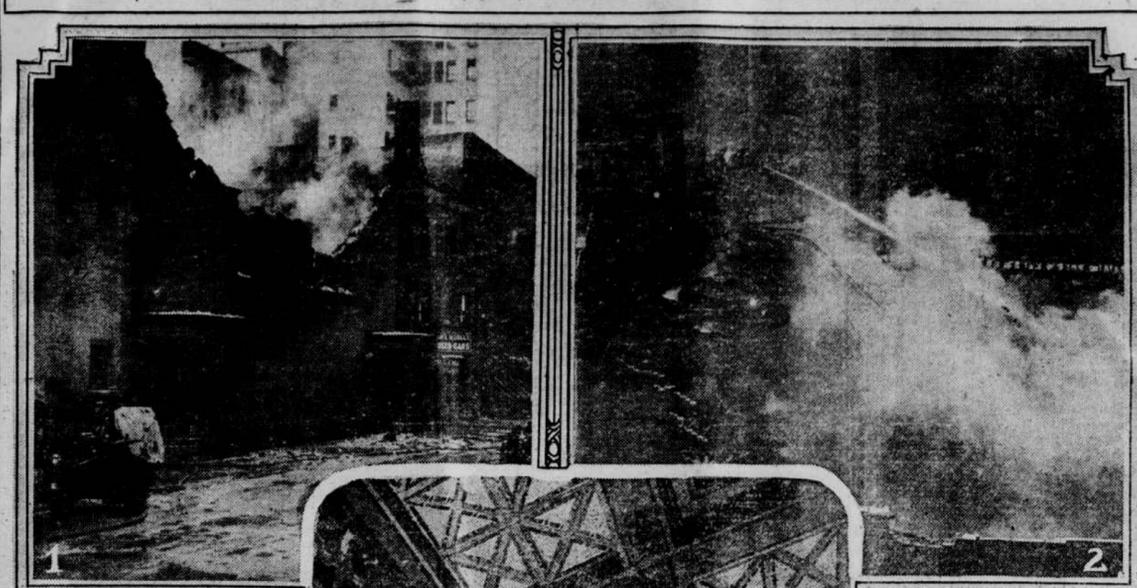
Brings her baby to this country with notes sent by Mrs. Cora M. Spiker, the forgetting wife. Mrs. Spiker lives with her husband, Percy R. Spiker, Jr., in Baltimore, Md. Mrs. Spiker during the war was in the service with the American Aviation Corps and was stationed in England.

When Miss Knowles arrived with her baby aboard the steamship Lapland on January 15 they were met by Mr. and Mrs. Spiker. But the immigration authorities stepped in and detained the mother and child, pending a decision by the officials at Washington. In order to meet this situation Mr. and Mrs. Spiker have filed affidavits which tell the whole story.

While Mr. Spiker was in the service abroad he formed a friendship with Miss Knowles and, in the language of Mrs. Spiker, "that friendship ripened into something more." Mrs. Spiker says that she knows that "the moral tendencies of her husband are above reproach." She denied Miss Knowles as a "lovable, refined girl," who was swayed by a momentary impulse for which she was only partly responsible.

Mrs. Spiker, in her affidavit, affirms that that she is fully informed of all the circumstances, and that she is convinced that the plan she suggests is the best way out. She says it would never disturb the happiness of her husband and herself if Miss Knowles came to live in their home with the baby, which the Spiker's desire to adopt. On the contrary, she says she would be glad to see Miss Knowles married to her husband's brother, Guy S. Spiker, who lives with them and who expresses a wish to marry her, although he has never seen her.

SCENES AT THE \$1,000,000 FIRE OF ART TREASURES.



FARMERS DECLARE NATION FACE FAMINE

(Continued from Page One.)

at East Chatham, N. Y., "when we farmers everywhere have to curtail production and raise only what we need for our own use and let the other fellows look out for themselves. Labor unions are more to blame for the high prices than any one else. People are trying to get pay for what they don't earn."

Writing from Paimyro, Mo., another farmer said: "I almost fear a famine. Farm help everywhere is flocking to the city, lured by short hours, high wages and the promise of a good time. Some one, I fear, is going to suffer if this condition is not remedied shortly."

Blames Middle Man.

Declaring that the whole onus of the high cost of living rests with the middle man, another Missouri producer advocated the establishment of municipal butters, to be served by parcel post.

"I sell butter to the dealer for forty-five cent a pound," this letter said, "and the same butter sells to the consumer for eighty cents a pound. In the distribution we lose nearly half and we lose money on the butter at the first price. Such conditions are causing the farmers to leave the farm by the thousands. We have reached a crisis. You may ask what we would do with the middle man. I would suggest that it be arranged for them to go on the farm and help produce things. I understand that they have agreed to furnish the butter fourteen hours a day, but if we get by the near future there will have to be some useful work done by everyone."

Declaring that he worked a 240 acre farm, he then described at length the conditions of other farmers are doing the same, a Revere, Missouri, man declared that "the place to start to lower the cost of living is to cut the wages in the city, and then we can get on the farm to help increase production and then we can cut the cost of living."

Earned Dollar a Day.

His return for last year averaged one dollar a day for himself, a White Water, Mo., man said. "I hope soon to see the farmer and consumer going hand in hand. If not, then I'm quitting, for one, for fourteen hours a day for \$1 and let the middleman get the biggest part of it? Not me."

"I have just finished figuring up what the eggs, poultry and cream that I sold last year brought me," another farmer said, "and I will not be in the business next year."

The farmer away from the farm to the city was blamed by another Middle Western farmer for the high cost of living.

"I attribute it a great deal," he wrote, "to the good times in the cities. The young men go to the city and get big pay for eight hours work, while farmers have to work 14 to 16 hours a day at hard manual labor. All of the young men of this vicinity of any account go to the city, and there are only a few men left on the farm."

Declaring that while the farmer has to take what the commission man and retailer will pay him for his product, he is compelled to pay whatever the dealer asks for his clothing, farm machinery and other necessities, another farmer said:—

Work 12 to 16 Hours a Day.

"Farmers work from twelve to sixteen hours a day. City labor works six to eight hours a day. The city man makes two or three times as much as the farmer. The farmer labors and produces, and gets a smaller return than any other class."

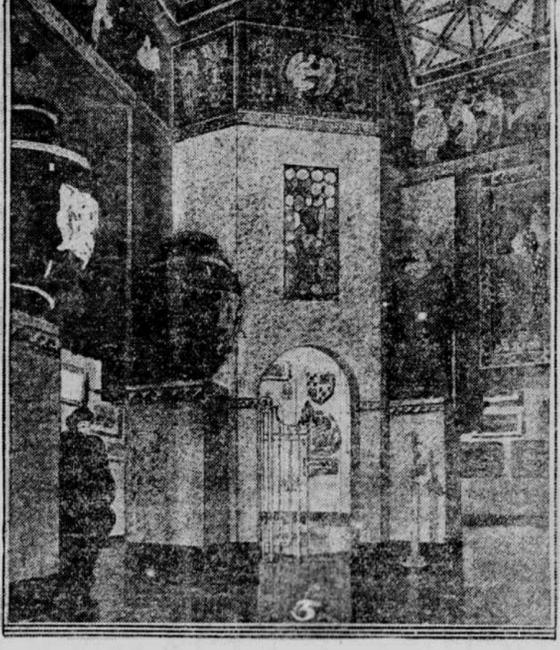
"The time is coming, if not here," another letter declared, "when the consumer and the farmer will absolutely have to deal direct with one another. The middleman gets the cost of my food-stuffs, and the consumer must first furnish me with first class labor at reasonable wages, and second, you must eliminate thousands of middlemen, who are robbing the people wholesale."

"The price of everything the farmer has to buy is still going up, and the quantity we can raise and put on the market is steadily going down," a Missouri farmer wrote. "I am a small farmer and don't know much else. We are loyal citizens, but there is an awful uneasiness."

"If you would reduce the cost of living," another farmer said "curtail the possibilities which are now afforded capital to invest in the stock market. Then efforts will produce results."

ADMITS STEALING 25 CARS FOR HIS JOY RIDING

In Henry Still, nineteen years old, arraigned yesterday in Harlem Court, the police say they have a confessed "joy rider" of no small importance. Still confesses, they say, to no less than twenty-five automobile thefts, but in no case did he do more than take a spin and then abandon the car to the tender care of some garage. The police say they have checked up half a dozen of these cases.



No. 1—Fallen wall in West Fifty-eighth street. No. 2—Firemen fight blaze from roof. No. 3—Corner in Vanderbilt Gallery before the fire.

ASSEMBLY SOCIALISTS FOUGHT WAR BILLS, EVIDENCE SHOWS

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possible for them, would it not, in the event that the Legislature of this State refused to adopt the movement which they presented for adoption by the Legislature to cripple the industries of the State and to starve the people thereof."

"I think you are assuming, I may almost say, an impossible condition," replied Mr. Lee, "that the people should elect an overwhelming majority upon one side and then be so overwhelmingly organized as to be able to use industrial action on the other side."

Mr. Lee was led into a long discussion of the two wings of the Socialist party in Russia, the Bolshevik and the Menshevik, telling of the history of Russia since 1917 and the growth of the Socialist movement in that country. Mr. Lee said that the Kerensky government had collapsed, instead of being overthrown by Lenin and Trotsky. During that part of the testimony Assemblyman Cavillier interrupted the witness with this question:—

"You know that German money was used by Trotsky and Lenin to overthrow the Kerensky government?"

"That is the history of the sort, and as a student of history I am convinced that statement is untrue," retorted Mr. Lee.

Discussion Socialist Doctrines.

For more than an hour Mr. Stedman, Mr. Lee, the witness, Mr. Martin and Assemblyman Cavillier indulged in what amounted to a discussion of socialist theories of government.

Assemblyman Everett asked:— "If you were elected Governor, Mr. Lee, on the Socialist ticket would you put into force in your proclamation the principles as advocated by you and your associates of the Socialist party?"

"You mean would I recommend to the Legislature?" Mr. Lee asked. "Oh, I assuredly would."

"Ah! That settles it," exclaimed Assemblyman Cavillier.

Along toward the end of this phase of the testimony, Mr. Sutherland, for the State, asked Mr. Lee:— "Did the Socialists urge opposition to the war?"

"At no time did we urge any one to obstruct the war," he replied. "We made it very clear we were not urging anybody to obstruct the war, but that we were attempting to influence the public mind to bring about an opposition to the participation in the war."

"I do not see the difference," broke in Assemblyman Harrington, one of the committee.

Just before the morning session closed Mr. Conboy began the presentation of evidence to show the attitude of Socialists members of the Legislature on war measures. Several ultra radical pamphlets and documents written by Socialists were read. The hearing was adjourned until next Tuesday when the State will continue.

\$750,000 PAINTINGS ARE LOST IN FIRE

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art objects could not be replaced for any amount of money."

Among the losers by reason of the fire was Daniel Chester French, who had two sculptures in the galleries. Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney also lost two fountain fays. Other sculptors whose works were represented included H. A. McNeil, A. Stirling Calder, Edmund T. Quinn, Attilio Piccirilli, Janet Scudder, Leo Seltzer, F. Wellington Ruckstuhl, Isidore Kent, Augustus Lukeman, Paul W. Bartlett, Albert Jaeger, John Gregory and Paul Wanship.

Miss Konik's work was a fountain designed to be placed in New Orleans and Mr. Bartlett lost the model of a soldier's monument that was to have gone to Duluth, Minn.

Miss Laingier (Miss Thompson) lost four decorative panels which had been considered among her best works. Arthur Covey, painter, lost a large mural painting for the directors' room of the National Amalgam Chemical Company. A sketch by John S. Sargent was in one of the galleries destroyed. Maxwell Armfield lost three panels representing Miriam and the dancing women. Other losses by work photographs and mural panels; Guy Van Evers, four small panels; W. T. Benda, two doors designed and executed by himself, encrusted with gold and carried out in blue and green; J. Scott Williams, a group of designs for the Bush Terminal Building; Eugene Savage, two panels; Robert K. Ryland and Betram Hartman, panels; also five tapestries from the Hermitage and designs of Barik wall hangings by Hartman, Falls, Myer, Slusser and Crisp.

Losses Large Mural Decoration.

Arthur Crisp, vice president of the league, lost a large mural decoration of Diana and three archers hunting, and with it a painting of a maelstrom. A group of wrought iron work by Samuel Yellin was reduced to a shapeless mass. Oscar Rach lost a set of marble table tops in Spanish polychrome.

The exhibition was to have opened yesterday to the press and critics, and to the public for a month commencing tomorrow. A dinner of the league set for last night was to discuss ways and means of holding another exhibition.

William Seyfried, an electrician, of No. 77 Seventy avenue, was in the vicinity when the fire started and tried to extinguish it. He was burned badly about the hands and body. After the roof of the Vanderbilt Gallery had tumbled in the walls on the Fifty-eighth street side of the building collapsed. Firemen from English street to the Annex were in the building at the time and had narrow escapes. Fireman Patrick J. Reardon was struck by several bricks and injured so badly that he had to be taken to the home of Dr. Leo D. Rice, near by.

James B. Lawler, of Engine Company No. 65, was cut by falling glass, and Harry Ness, of Hook and Ladder Company No. 4, was struck by bricks from falling wall. Lawler was attended by an ambulance surgeon, and Ness, who appeared to be more seriously hurt, was hurried in Fire Chief John Keenan's ambulance to the United States Health Hospital, in West Fifth street.

NURSE ACCUSED OF SCALDING WOMAN PATIENT TO DEATH

DEDHAM, Mass., Friday.—A charge that she had first beaten and then scalded to death Mrs. Mary C. Lotz, of Malden, while the latter was a patient in a private hospital in Wellestler, was brought today against Miss Margaret E. Comans, of Waterbury, an attendant at the institution. She pleaded not guilty in the district court, was held until February 4 for a hearing and was released in \$200 bond.

The complaint charges that on November 21 last Miss Comans assaulted and beat Mrs. Lotz in the hospital and then willfully turned hot water into a bath tub, in which she placed the patient, causing her to be scalded to death. Mrs. Lotz had been under treatment at the hospital several weeks for a nervous disease.

NEW STATEN ISLAND BUS LINE WITH ZONE FARES

It was announced in St. George last night that the Board of Estimate and Apportionment had approved plans for a new Staten Island bus line, which will run from St. George to Tottenville, a distance of eighteen miles, and will accommodate not only passenger for New York, but also many going to Perth Amboy. The new service will be started next week with a zone system of fares.

The charge between Tottenville and Huguenot will be five cents; another five cents will be charged between Huguenot and New Dorp, and five cents more will be charged between New Dorp and St. George. The through fare will be \$1.25.

Bookends \$3.50 to \$25.00 MEASURED by time, Ovington's is 70 years old. Measured by its wares, Ovington's is the newest shop on Fifth Avenue. Measured by its charm, it is the most fashionable shop—and measured by its prices, Ovington's is the most reasonable.

OVINGTON'S "The Gift Shop of 5th Ave." 314 Fifth Ave., near 32d St.

FARMERS AT ODDS OVER RAILROADS FOOD RELIEF FUND SET AT \$50,000,000

National Council and National Grange Each Declares War on the Other. Republicans of House Cut Down Figure Asked by Wilson.

FEDERAL OWNERSHIP ISSUE TAKE FINAL ACTION TODAY

Followers of Townley Accused of Trying to Couple Farmers with Radicals. Austrians and Armenians Among Those Expected to Benefit by Credits.

(Special Despatch to the Herald.) WASHINGTON, D. C., Friday.—Who's who among farmers promises to be settled as a result of differences over the policy to be pursued relative to the ownership of railroads. War has been declared by the Farmers' National Council, a non-partisan group, on the National Grange organization over the question of government ownership of the railroads, resulting in a declaration before the Senate Committee on Commerce today by Benjamin C. Marsh, of the Farmers' National Council, that the Grange organizations claiming to represent three million farmers are controlled by Wall Street.

The Farmers' National Council represents the Farmers' Non-Partisan League, the Townley organization of North Dakota. It is headed by George P. Hampton, single taxer, and by Benjamin C. Marsh. This organization is advocating government ownership of the railroads and the merchant marine. It claims to represent 70,000 farmers, although the only proof it offers of this is an imposing list of names. Mr. Marsh was told by Senator McNary, of Oregon, today that he did not represent a genuine farmer in his State and represented only a small Federal group.

Mr. Marsh's retort was that the National Grange organization, which is opposed to the view of the Non-Partisan League group, is controlled by Wall Street.

Senator Nelson, of Minnesota, wanted to know of Mr. Marsh if there was any relationship between his organization and the Russian Soviet government, a suggestion which Mr. Marsh hotly denied.

The interchange of compliments before the Senate Committee on Commerce was only part of the alignment of the Grange and the Farmers' National Council over the railroad question. The Farmers' National Council has been exceptionally vigorous in its denunciation of the proposed return of the roads to private ownership and the Grange's claim to representation of the farmers.

Representatives of the National Grange and affiliated organizations called at the White House today and made it clear that the farmers are overrepresented—three million of them, it is claimed—have no sympathy with the government ownership ideas of the Farmers' National Council and that the sentiment of the agricultural population is in favor of a return of the roads to private ownership.

This attitude has been formulated in resolutions to which the following organizations have concurred:—The National Grange, the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the International Farm Congress, the National Farmers Congress, the National Association of Milk Producers and the Cotton Growers' Conference.

These farm organizations meeting in Washington have been brought together for two purposes. One is to protest against retention of the roads in government ownership and to draw the line between the radical group which has followed Townley in North Dakota and which threatens to overturn political conditions in Minnesota and the large body of farmers the country over.

It is the expression of this latter attitude which is likely to have the most far-reaching importance. Farm leaders of the country have professed to look with suspicion upon the attempt by Townley and his advisers to link radical labor with the farming group, as being opposed to the interests of the farmer and the general public and subjecting the agricultural population to political exploitation by self-appointed leaders.

That the challenge has been accepted was indicated in the statements made by Mr. Marsh. The answer of the farmers' representatives is that the radical group is tending to Sovietism, which will subject the farmer to the exploitation of an urban minority, as has happened in Russia.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Friday.—Republican members of the House Ways and Means Committee in conference late today informally agreed to favor legislation authorizing the Treasury to extend additional credits of \$50,000,000 to certain European countries for food relief.

The specific countries which are to benefit by the food credits will be decided upon at a later meeting of the majority members of the committee. Poland, Armenia and Austria were included in the original proposal of Secretary Glass, and supported in a letter from President Wilson, for credits of \$100,000,000, later reduced to \$25,000,000 by Mr. Glass.

Final Action Today.

After the informal agreement had been reached, Chairman Fordney called a meeting for tomorrow of the full committee to consider final action. Leading Democratic committeemen, including Representative Kitchin (North Carolina) and Garner (Texas), who were among the first to suggest the \$50,000,000 maximum authorization, are counted on by the Republican members to support the \$50,000,000 loan, which also has approval of some members of the Republican legislative steering committee.

The agreement among the Republican committeemen came after an earlier conference with the steering committee, at which varied opinions on the Treasury proposal of larger loan authorization was expressed, including opposition to any new loans. Some of the Republicans favored a larger sum than \$50,000,000, but the majority opinion seemed to support that amount.

While no agreement was attempted at either of the conferences to determine whether the legislation shall specify the countries to get the loans, some effort in this direction may be made at the Ways and Means Committee meeting tomorrow. Proponents of the \$50,000,000 fund suggested that amount primarily to relieve starvation in Austria, to supplement private charity to the Armenians and alleviate distress in Budapest.

Europe Can Not Help.

Confidential information received by committee members through official channels was understood to be to the effect that Europe, including France, Germany and England, could not be expected to contribute to a relief fund for Austria, their inclination being to aid Poland in its fight against the Russian Bolshevik government. Objection to extended aid by the United States to Poland was made by some committeemen on the ground that the Polish army is now more than one hundred miles beyond the nation's eastern frontier.

However, the \$50,000,000 fund is expected to afford some relief for Poland, it being pointed out by those who advocate limiting the relief to certain countries, that the requirements for Austria amount to \$20,000,000 for Budapest \$5,000,000 and Armenia \$100,000 a month. There was no indication today of the strength of the committee members desiring to specify the countries to get the relief, but it was thought by members that the majority sentiment favored legislation specifying that the relief should be for "populations in the countries of Europe or countries contiguous thereto."

Besides finally deciding on the amount of the loan, the committee tomorrow must determine the method of administration of the general relief fund that it would be through the United States Grain Corporation which would be authorized to use its funds for buying food in this country. Profits of approximately \$5,000,000 have been made by the corporation from its grain sales to Europe, according to information given the committee recently by Herbert Hoover.

Near East Relief Gets \$118,095.

The Near East Relief, of which Cleveland H. Dodge is treasurer, announced yesterday that contributions amounting to \$118,095 were received during the week ending January 25.



NINETY-FOUR Years AGO

Messrs. LORD & TAYLOR opened their Store at 47 Catherine Street

The ANNIVERSARY of this occasion will be celebrated beginning next Monday, with the most timely sale of seasonable merchandise in all the history of the Store.

Full details will appear in the Newspapers To-morrow

Lord & Taylor 38th Street FIFTH AVENUE 39th Street