GRAFT BY HEALTH OFFICIALS CHARGED

Swann Hears Oystermen Paid for Marketing Polluted Bivalves.

GO-BETWEEN EXAMINED

Hylan Investigation Arousing Storm of Protest by Department's Friends.

An investigation into alleged graft in the Health Department was begun yesterday by the District Attorney's office. One man, said to be a go-between between oyster dealers and health inspectors, was taken to the Criminal Courts Building at 2 o'clock yesterday morning and kept there for eleven hours until he made a confession. Later he went before the Grand Jury and repeated his story, which involved several inspectors, two of whom were also taken to the building and questioned for some time.

At the end of the day Judge Swann announced that no one had been arrested, although charges of graft and extortion that amounted to blackmail had been made against inspectors. Civil Service Commissioner McBride added to this by saying that from all the stories which have come to his attention it appears that graft in the Health Department existed in several bureaus, and that men prominent in the department might be involved.

Oystermen Had Slush Fund.

Oystermen who planted in Princes Bay, at the further end of Staten Island, and oyster dealers in the city who received oysters from there are said by Judge Swann to have made up a fund with which to buy protection from the Health Department inspectors, the money having been paid through the unnamed go-between. About $12,000 was passed in this way, although the go-between himself got little of it, it is charged. These oyster beds are in water part of which is polluted, and other parts of which are partly spoiled by sewage which empties into them from the Raritan River and from the Hudson.

"The corrupt contract was," said Judge Swann, "that in consideration of the Health Department permitting oysters to be planted in Princes Bay, the oysters merchants who contributed to the fund should be permitted to sell oysters from these contaminated beds to the consumers in New York city. The price agreed upon was 1 cent per bushel for every bushel coming from this contaminated source, and it aggregated $12,000 during the year 1917. The bargain was made in April, 1917.

"The merchants who contributed to this fund must have had guilty knowledge of the fact that the oyster beds were contaminated, or else they would not have consented to bribe the inspectors of the Health Department for permitting them to sell oysters from those beds, when they did not have to pay for the permission to sell oysters from any other beds.

"The go-between went directly to the oystermen's places of business and collected the money and then met inspectors at Mouquin's restaurant down town and at various hotels up town. His own share of the money was very small, for the inspectors were so pressing in their demands that he was forced to turn over money in advance of collecting it, and then some of the oyster men refused to pay any more. So he really only got about $200."

Judge Swann said that the oyster dealers had corroborated the confession made by the man they paid money to and that they would not be prosecuted if they testify about their payments. The inspectors, he also said, had admitted knowing the man who has confessed, but have denied stoutly that they were guilty of grafting.

"At least a dozen men will be implicated before we are through with the investigation," said Commissioner McBride. "We have found that at these various meeting places men of considerable importance in the department were present. One of them was a director of a bureau, not the bureau of foods and drugs, however, and another was a man holding another important bureau office.

Fertile Field for Graft.

"The Health Department is the most fertile field for graft in the city government. The Police Department has certain restrictions about it, and no policeman has the opportunity for graft which these inspectors have. They make $1,500 a year and have more power than any police official under the rank of inspector. They can close up a food merchant and drive him out of business if they want to, for there is no supervision over them and they are supreme in their own fields."

Health Commissioner Amster, who characterized the conditions in his department as "deplorable," said yesterday that as soon as he assumed office he discovered things which called for prompt scrutiny.

All the talk of graft at the District Attorney's office did not serve to check the storm of protest which has been aroused by Mayor Hylan's proposed reorganization of the department.

Dr. Lee K. Frankel, chairman of the Committee of Twenty-one, who has tried ineffectually to gain an audience with the Mayor since Monday—he had received no audience late last night—stated that he favors activity of the District Attorney in the matter, but also said that the aim of the investigation as announced by the investigators should not be lost sight of while the search for graft continues.

There were persistent rumors afloat that Alfred H. Smith, President of the Board of Aldermen, and Frank L. Dowling, President of the Borough of Manhattan, are not entirely in sympathy with the investigation.

Charles A. Beard, director of the Bureau of Municipal Research, offered a way out to the Mayor yesterday if the latter wants one. He suggested the creation of a commission to study the department and recommended that it be composed of representatives of the New York Academy of Medicine, the State Health Department, the United States Public Health Service and other recognized agencies concerned in public health and technically informed on the subject.

When asked to comment on the action of the District Attorney Dr. Frankel said:

"I am glad to see that the charges of graft in the Health Department have been turned over to the District Attorney and that that official has taken action. The organization which I represent, and I personally hope that every grafter will be detected and punished.

"While we desire that the District Attorney, as the officer of competent legal jurisdiction, shall make the most searching inquiry possible into charges of graft in any department, we still feel that the Mayor should grant the request of the committee for information regarding the opinions of the Corporation Counsel and for open hearings of the Civil Service Commission on the question of the legality of the bureaus of the Health Department and their possible reorganization."

Dr. S. S. Goldwater, former Commissioner of Health, made public yesterday a letter written by the Mayor in answer to a request he had made to talk the Health Department over with the city's Chief Executive. It reads in part:

"Your letter of April 15 is received saying that you desire to have a talk about the Health Department. I will be pleased to see you at any time, but in so far as the Health Department is concerned I do not care to discuss that until such time as I receive a report from the officials who are investigating some phases of that department.

"Complaints have been made alleging violations of the law, blackmail, graft and discourtesy of employees to the people who are obliged to deal with the Health Department, which, if true, must be ended once and for all. The Health Department must be healthy within before it can properly administer health without.

"It does not require a person trained in medicine to correct these abuses. When the question arises concerning the efficiency of the Health Department along medical lines, the advice of medical men will be asked for and taken, and I shall be the first to insist that the standard of the Health Department of the city of New York be second to none in any city in the United States.

"Very truly yours,

"JOHN F. HYLAN, Mayor."

Jean Broadhurst, assistant professor in biology in Teachers College and a member of the Council of the Society of American Bacteriologists, also issued a letter of protest against the proposal to reorganize the Health Department yesterday. This protest was chiefly against the secrecy surrounding the investigation in Room 1443 in the Municipal Building.

This hearing was postponed yesterday because Chairman McBride was busy with the District Attorney.

MITCHEL WORKERS WIN STAY IN COURT

Childs, Newcomb and Sulzer Are Held Under $1,000 Bail Each.

William Hamlin Childs, former State Senator Josiah T. Newcomb and former Gov. William Sulzer were arraigned yesterday before Justice Goff in the Criminal Branch of the Supreme Court and received an adjournment until Wednesday. Bail was fixed at $1,000 in each case.

Gov. Sulzer was smiling amiably when he walked into court, apparently with some hidden amusement which his companions did not share. He had no sooner got inside the rail than he saw former State Senator William H. Reynolds, who is under indictment in connection with the Seaside Park sale.

"How are you, Bill?" said Sulzer with a smile to Reynolds. "Misery loves company, doesn't it, Bill?"

But apparently Reynolds did not see the joke, if there was one, for there was no response.

John B. Stanchfield represented Mr. Childs, and was spokesman for the other lawyers. Mr. Newcomb was represented by John A. Boles, and Mr. Sulzer by Col. Alexander S. Bacon. Mr. Stanchfield aroused the risibilities of the audience when he said:

"I ask that sentence in this case be deferred."

"You mean pleading, don't you, Mr. Stanchfield?" replied Justice Goff. "It is too early for sentence. We haven't reached that stage yet, have we?"

"I meant pleading," said Mr. Stanchfield with a smile. "I ask that this case be adjourned for two weeks to give us time to make pleadings and to look up cases."

"That is too long a time," said Justice Goff. "I think you should be ready to plead next Wednesday, and I fix that as the day."

The specific charge against the defendants is that they concealed a $5,000 payment to Mr. Sulzer for speaking for Mayor Mitchel in the last campaign, and another payment of $6,500 to Misha Applebaum for furnishing publicity for Mitchel. The specific payments to Sulzer, as charged in the indictment, were $1,700 on October 16, 1917; $1,700 on October 23, and $1,600 on October 30.

METHODISTS IN CONFERENCE.

New York East District Gives Clergy for Army.

NEW BRITAIN, Conn., April 18.—Ministers in the New York East Conference of the Methodist Church who are in the Federal service will be continued as members of this conference. This was the substance of a vote at the first business session of the annual conference this afternoon. Bishop L. W. Wilson, who is presiding, was authorized to designate conference members for chaplains in the United States service and for appointment as Y. M. C. A. workers.

Conference reports indicated that 4,200 members of this conference are in service. The conference chose the Rev. Dr. Arthur B. Stanford of Brooklyn as secretary, the Rev. John W. Mace of New Haven statistician, the Rev. George C. Tompkins of Brooklyn treasurer and the Rev. Gustav Laass of Farmingdale, L. I., as biographical secretary. The Rev. G. O. Richardson of the Brooklyn North District reported 774 applicants for membership during the year, of whom 630 were received into full membership. In the district 987 members had gone into war service.

YOUNG BROOKLYN SOLDIER OF CANADIAN ARMY SLAIN

Mother Notified of Death of Theodore W. Forrest Just as She Had Finished Knitting Quilt to Send to Him at Front

Mrs. Frances Irene Forrest of 19 Wyckoff street, Brooklyn, received the laconic notice from the Director of Records in Ottawa, Canada, yesterday that her son, Theodore W. Forrest, a private, attached to the 116th Battalion of the Canadian army, was killed in action "somewhere in France" on April 3.

She received the news in the afternoon, after she had turned over to another son, George Forrest, a large knitted quilt which she has been working on for some months, to send to her boy in the battle line.

Theodore Forrest was born in Brooklyn twenty-three years ago, and soon after the war broke out went to Camp Borden, Canada, and enlisted. After some months of intensive training he was transferred to the 173d Canadians, and tiring of the inactivity of that organization, obtained a transfer to the 213th Canadians. In the last battalion he did not see action, and again had himself transferred to the 116th Canadians.

Sent Vivid Descriptions.

With the latter unit he went into action in Flanders last May, and since that time has been continually at the front. In letters sent home he described vividly a few of the things he saw and modestly mentioned one or two of the narrow escapes he had.

In a letter written to his brother, and dated last November, he said: "This trip in the line, George, we were in one of Fritz's old pill boxes. There were two wounded Germans there who were left by the bunch we relieved, after they had taken them in another advance (we are doing this all the time), and I got a cap from one of them. He did not want to give it to me, but when I thought of the crimes they committed on the poor Belgians I thought nothing of taking it off his head. He was one of the Prussian Guards, the best Germany has, and they are so scared of the Canadians they run like —— when they see them coming."

In another letter he said: "I don't mind the shelling so much in the daylight, but the night gets on my nerves. I see the shells bursting near me and the noise of the explosion and the fire it spits make your hair stand on edge."

Dead Near as They Ate.

In still another letter he wrote: "This trip in the line we had breakfast, six of us—bully beef and biscuits and a can of beans—and staring us right in the eyes, in fact under our feet, were four dead Germans. Some appetizer, eh? But one gets so accustomed to seeing dead Germans that it's nothing at all and they are looked upon as a day nearer the end of the war. That is not a nice thing to write, but it's so. I wish the States would send over about 300,000 airplanes and bomb Germany until there was nothing left there."

The young soldier sent back many souvenirs of his experiences in the trenches. Last night his brother carried back to the Wyckoff street home in Brooklyn the big knitted quilt with the crossed flags of the Allies.

SURGEON OF 69TH WINS A WAR CROSS

Lieut. George Francis Patton Decorated for Bravery in Gas Attack.

For risking his life to relieve the suffering of wounded men under fire, Lieut. George Francis Patton of this city, a surgeon in the American Army Medical Corps, attached to the "Old Sixty-ninth" Regiment, now the 165th, has been decorated with the Croix de Guerre, according to information received by his father, Charles E. Patton of 2083 Washington avenue.

During a heavy bombardment from the German batteries, in which gas shells were being used liberally, Lieut. Patton found that his gas mask hampered him in the dressing of wounds, so he removed the mask and went on working over the wounded until he was overcome.

Recently the elder Patton received from his son a letter dated March 23, in which the Lieutenant said that he had been slightly wounded and that his superior officers had told him he deserved a rest. He thought at the time he would be sent to the convalescent hospital at Nice.

Took Bride Last July.

Lieut. Patton is 31 years old and is a graduate of Fordham University and Maryland University. After receiving his degree of M. D. from the latter university about eight years ago he began the practice of medicine in this city. On July 12 last, shortly before he received his commission of First Lieutenant, he married Miss Nora Dobbins, who is living with her widowed mother, Mrs. Thomas Dobbins, in 4360 Park avenue.

Lieut. Patton was sent to Camp Mills October 25 and sailed for France shortly afterward. In January he received word of his mother's death in this city.

Something of the spirit of the man whose heroic disregard of self has won for him the coveted French war cross is revealed in the following letter written by him not long ago to a friend in this city, Dr. Thomas Hayes Curtin:

"Just a few lines from way out here in Lonesome Land, where every day sounds like July 4, and one is kept as busy as a one armed paperhanger with the hives, to let you know the Boche has not touched me yet—but is trying —— hard.

"No matter about noise or excitement, the thoughts of home and all your friends and dear ones are ever at hand and seem to be a constant torture. One does not mind how close the call or any of the dangers, but does mind the everlasting thought of home.

"It is wonderful out here to see our boys, every one with a clear eye and conscience, a light heart and step, and facing Fritz with his damndest. No one cares, for the longer you are here the more you appreciate that you should be here, and the gladder you are you came to do your humble bit. If God sees fit that we do not return, but rest out here, none need spill tears at home or drop his head for us, for we shall go down laughing in the face of Fritz and be glad to go out fighting him and what he means.

People Home Must Back Fighters.

"The people back home can be assured the job will be done right and in proper style and they can hold their heads high, for they have to represent them the cleanest living and hardest fighting men who ever put foot on the soil of France, bar none. And all the fighting world, even Fritz, appreciates it.

"If all back home hump their backs and give us the proper and just support that should be coming to us, Fritz will remember to his dying day what the U. S. A. means.

"He can take a lot of licking yet, and it is coming to him, and he knows it, but none knows just how long it will take. If God sees fit that we go out, at least we can feel that we have done something big in this world, and say, Tom, no one knows just what that feeling is until he gets over here and gets in. For it is a great consolation, and we do not mind the hardships.

"How is Thomas, Jr.? Give my regards to him and tell him to keep hard at school, for it will all help in the game of life, and one finds out to his sorrow that he cannot retrace the steps taken the day before or erase the heartache he has caused others.

"This is certainly the game where you find that out, and those of us who get back home will all be changed to better men for having gone through it all."

Ex-Policeman Kills Himself.

Edward McDonald, 56, killed himself yesterday in his home, 536 East Eighty-seventh street, by firing a bullet from a police service pistol through his head. Mrs. McDonald and two grown sons were in the apartment. McDonald was retired from the police force two weeks ago because of illness.

War Factory Smokers Fined.

Twelve men were find $20 each by Magistrate Kochendorfer in Long Island City yesterday for smoking in the factory of Rosenwasser Bros., who are making army shoes and leggings. Only one man paid the fine, the rest going to jail for three days in default.

GROUND GLASS PLOT INJURES MISS ROXIE

Twenty-four Beer Bottles and Six Wine Magnums in Her Food.

RIOT AT HIPPODROME

Mark Leuscher's Flivver Serves as Filling for Cavity in Elephant's Tooth.

Up from the basement of the Hippodrome early yesterday morning arose the cry of "German spies!" and over into the Battling Nelson Grill of Jack's restaurant, across the street, raced a large section of the stage hands' union calling loudly upon Jack's Strong Arm Reserves and the Waiters' Flying Wedge to spill into Sixth avenue and take up the spy hunt immediately.

It seems that about half an hour earlier the eminent James Mathews, for thirty years manager of the bally old De-uke of Yawk Theatah in silly old London, but in recent years house manager of the Hippodrome, had arrived in the basement of the Hippodrome to begin house managing for the day—wot-wot-wot? Jim Mathews, it was learned later after some of the excitement had died down, had gone first, as usual, to the locker down next to the elephant stalls, where Jim keeps the basement working clothes which he always wears while feeding the Hippodrome animals or tidying up their stalls of a morning, thus keeping fleckless the clothes from jolly Old Bond street which Jim sports around the lobby of the theatre later in the day.

Heat Was Going Up.

Jim had changed to his working monocle with the steel rim and his one button cutaway overalls and was just about to strap into place the waterproof spats he always wears while puttering around the elephant stalls when it occurred to Jim that the basement was deucedly overheated.

"I say, me good man," exclaimed Jim, beckoning to Heating Expert Mike Hennessy of the Hippodrome's thermodromic forces to approach the presence, "I mean to say, me good man, if you know what I mean, wot?—I should say it is deucedly hot, wot-wot?—if you follow me, old chap, I mean to say, wot?—if you know what I mean, that——"

"It's too hot down here, that's what you mean to say, boss," interrupted Expert Mike Hennessy. "You want the steam turned off, if you know what I mean—phwat?"

"Precisely, me good man," cried Jim Mathews, delightedly. "There is too much steam up, if you know what I mean."

"Well, you're all wrong, boss, if you know what I mean," snapped Expert Hennessy. "There hasn't been any steam on here since yesterday."

Sure enough, a personal examination of the steam pipes by Manager Mathews showed that they were dead cold. Nevertheless the heat around the elephant stalls was increasing so rapidly that the sweat began to blur Manager Mathews's working monocle as he set about the preliminaries of preparing a breakfast dish of shredded bales of hay for Miss Roxie Powers, 76 years old, of the Hippodrome company, Miss Roxie being the prima donna of Elmer Power's noted troupe of performing elephants.

Fever of 152 Centigrade.

Pausing a moment to wipe his brow, Jim Mathews happened to place his hand upon Miss Roxie's waist. With a sharp exclamation, which was one of the first American words Jim learned after taking up a study of our language a few years ago, the Hippodrome manager withdrew his hand from Miss Roxie's waist. Miss Roxie was ill, was burning with a fever estimated later by Doc Martin Potter, who is the Sir William Osler of the Hippodrome's animal collection, as high as 152 centigrade. Hence the heat radiating in and around the elephant stalls.

Only for an instant did Manager Mathews hesitate between turning in a call for Doc Potter or a fire alarm. He turned in an alarm for Doc Potter, who paused at the head of a runway, looked down upon the sick elephant's stall in a far corner of the basement and instantly cried, "Fracture of the enamel one the labial side of the third molar, doubtless caused by some foreign matter in the food, resulting in improper fletcherization, inflamation of the globular epidermis, headaches in the posterior section of the meningitis, astigmatism and subacute regurgitations, which if permitted to persist will undoubtedly result in a pernicious anæmia that will cause the patient to croak. Mike, beat it out to Sixth avenue and get me the tools out of Mark Leuscher's flivver, also a sheet of tin roofing."

Diagnosis Absolutely Right.

That's the kind of diagnostician Doc Potter is. After delivering his diagnosis from the top of the runway Doc sauntered down to Miss Roxie's stall and took a close up view of the patient. Sure enough, he was right. Miss Roxie had everything Doc Potter had said, and furthermore had each thing where Doc said it ought to be.

Suddenly there was an explosion far up the runway. Doc Potter and Jim Mathews whirled around. And there, framed by the big doorway backstage by which the heaviest animals in the "Cheer Up" company are brought to their dressing stalls, sat Mike Hennessy, trying to get Mr. Leuscher's flivver to roll down hill to the elephant stalls under its own power.

"I couldn't find any tinshop in the neighborhood," Mike hollered from his seat in the flivver, "so I couldn't get any sheets of tin to fill Roxie's tooth. How about using Mark Leuscher's flivver, Doc? I've got the old boat this far, but she's died on me."

With the help of Charley and Flo, two of Elmer Power's perfectly well elephants, the flivver was pushed and dragged into motion. Once the flivver had given a final gasp beside Miss Roxie's stall Doc Potter kicked the tin hood off Mr. Leuscher's super-two car and began to hammer the hood into the cavity on the labial side of the sick elephant's third molar, the elephant in the meantime having been roped, thrown and hogtied by Elmer Powers, George Powers, Jim Mathews, Dick Burnside and Local 2 of the Stage Hands Union of North America. But the tin hood made little more than a lining for the cavity.

Tonneau Follows Hood.

"Maybe Mark wouldn't mind if we used the tonneau, huh, Doc?" suggested Mike Hennessy, lifting the body of the car off the chassis as he spoke. Whereupon the tin part of the flivver body, which included virtually all of the tonneau, was banged and pounded into something resembling the shape of the cavity which still yawned on the labial side of Miss Roxie's injured molar. And when the tooth had been completely filled all that remained of the Leuscher flivver was an insurance claim.

Then it was that Doc Potter, once he had seen to it that Miss Roxie's temperature had been caused to sag to only 105 centigrade, began to look into the shredded baled hay which Jim Mathews had been preparing for the elephant's breakfast. The first bale in the dish seemed all right, but scarcely had Doc Potter begun to examine the second and third bales on the plate when he cried out with alarm.

Nestling in among the hay was a case of empty beer bottles and six taller bottles which once had contained wine. With a jump Doc Potter ran toward a bin in which reposed some of the baled hay supper which had been spurned by Miss Roxie on Wednesday night. And in this batch of cold supper Doc Potter came upon enough pieces of broken glass to show that the supper had contained the other eight empty wine bottles of the even dozen which had found their way into Miss Roxie's bales of hay.

A German Label, Hah!

"Rhine wine bottles!" cried Doc Potter. "The hand of the Kaiser or one of his agents is seen here, men. Now we have only to prove that the beer which the other bottles once contained was made by some German or German American firm and we have a clean case of Teuton frightfulness. Just because these elephants are being used almost every week in Liberty Loan parades Berlin has decided to put the rollers under them. Men, I arrived just in time."

And sure enough a beer bottle label was found among the glassware which showed that the beer had been made by a firm bearing a pronounced German name. Thereupon up the runways ran Jim Mathews, Doc Potter, Dick Burnside and the stage hands' union screaming for help to run down the German spies. Efforts to learn from Publicity Director Leuscher of the Hippodrome last night whether the Boches had been run down during the day were unavailing. It was said that Mr. Leuscher shortly before had come upon his flivver in the basement, and not noticing that its appearance had suffered a change he had followed his nightly practice of motoring home in the flivver by calling a taxicab to tow the flivver to the garage on the Leuscher estate on the Bayonne waterfront.

PROVES LUSITANIA HAD NO EXPLOSIVES

Cunard Company Gets Status Fixed as Merchant Ship at Liability Hearing.

Allegations that the Lusitania carried guns and ammunition on the voyage that ended in disaster in May, 1915, were withdrawn yesterday at the continuation of the hearing by Judge Julius M. Mayer of the Federal District Court on the petition of the Cunard Steamship Company to be released from liability. The steamship, so far as this proceeding is concerned, has the status of a merchant vessel engaged in transporting passengers and freight for hire.

The company alleges that the vessel was sunk by the wanton act of the enemy and that neither it nor its agents were at fault. It asks for a complete release from liability, or failing that to a liability limited to damages for loss of life and effects. Sixty-seven suits are pending with damages aggregating $6,000,000.

Andrew M. Chalmers, assistant pier superintendent who supervised the loading of the Lusitania, testified yesterday that no explosives were taken aboard. He gave testimony relating to boat drills and other conditions aboard the steamship.

Irving L. Lippincott of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company of New Haven, and John N. Standish, shipping manager of the Remington Arms Company of Bridgeport, Conn., testified relating to shipments of British rifle cartridges to New York in April, 1915, but neither had knowledge that the shipments were put aboard the Lusitania. Mr. Standish said shocks would not have exploded these cartridges.

George W. Strubel of the Bethlehem Steel Works was positive no explosives were in shells which were shipped.

Capt. Herbert Hudson of Brooklyn, a master mariner, gave testimony for the claimants. It was hoped to prove by him that Capt. Turner of the Lusitania might have avoided the torpedoes if he had shown more skill in directing the steamship's course and its speed, but the court restricted his testimony because he had not navigated off the south coast of Ireland.

The hearing will go on to-day.

SHIPPING MEN HIT DOCK LEASE

Maritime Association Asks City to Prevent Speculation.

Without mentioning the recent transaction, whereby the Sinking Fund Commission approved the leasing of Pier 69, North River, to the Hudson Dock and Terminal Corporation, incorporated in February with a list of dummy directors in the face of an offer of $30,000 from the Occident Dock Company, present holder of the pier, the Maritime Association passed a resolution yesterday indirectly criticising that action.

This organization, which has a membership of more than 1,000, representing the shipping interests of the port, requested the Mayor, the Sinking Fund Commission and the Dock Commissioner not to make any extended leases of pier property during the war and not to lease any piers to "undisclosed interests whose affiliations are not fully known and to ascertain the purpose for which any pier property is to be utilized so as to prevent any speculation."

2 HELD ON CRUELTY CHARGE.

Strangs Accused of Burning Boy and Girl.

Charles Strang, a superintendent for the Staten Island Shipbuilding Company of Port Richmond, Staten Island, and his wife, Jennie, who are charged by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, with extreme cruelty to their children, Raymond and Elizabeth, 9 and 11 years old respectively, were held for trial in the Court of Special Sessions by Magistrate William Croak in the New Brighton Police Court, yesterday.

John Strang, 23, a brother of Raymond and Elizabeth, who made the original complaint to the society, was in court.

The complaint made by the society against Strang is that on Easter Sunday morning after Elizabeth had taken some candy he placed both her hands on top of the kitchen stove and burned them.

Mrs. Strang, the children's stepmother, is charged with having burned the left side of Raymond's face with a hot poker after he had taken some jelly from the pantry. Mrs. Strang denies the charge.

FALL FROM WINDOW FATAL.

Wife of the Consul-General of Guatemala Killed.

Mrs. Theresa Bengoechea, wife of the Consul-General for Guatemala, Dr. Ramon Bengoechea, fell from a front window of her home on the fourth floor of the apartment house at 100 St. Nicholas avenue yesterday. When an ambulance surgeon came from the Harlem Hospital he said that Mrs. Bengoechea had been killed instantly.

The police learned that Mrs. Bengoechea had been ill for some time and that while her nurse and maid went to get medicine and water for her she went to the window to enjoy the air and fell out.

PROHIBITION CHIEF SEEMS SATISFIED

Anderson Says Election Has Been Great Victory for "Dry" Cause.

"WETS" STILL RETICENT

Fact That Women Divided on Liquor Selling Cheers Anti-Optionist.

With apparent sincerity, prohibition leaders professed satisfaction yesterday over the general results of the local option elections in thirty-nine cities of the State. William H. Anderson, superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League and field general of the "drys," pointed out that the outcome showed a clear gain for the "drys" and a clear loss for the "wets," and that was about all that could have been expected.

"The vote was the first instalment of that referendum which the wets have clamored for," said Mr. Anderson. "They gained nothing, but lost about half of what they had. The next instalment of the referendum will come in the fall primaries and in the election of legislators and a Governor.

"The victory was large enough to encourage the people to keep on and small enough to prevent them from going to sleep. It is substantially in accord with the league's prediction of one-half. It indicates a Legislature safely in favor of ratification next fall, for there are many people in favor of national prohibition who are not for local prohibition. And in gauging the sentiment of the State on prohibition it is necessary to take into account the opinion in the 138 new dry townships and in the towns, two-thirds of them.

Sorry About Syracuse.

"We are sorry about Syracuse, but find that Watertown consoles us. It was at Watertown, the home city of the Republican Senate leader, Elon R. Brown, that the vote crystallized into the sentiment that Senator Brown is a has been politically. The vote was advance notice to him. Watertown, with the Senate leader, represented also by the Assemblyman who was the active instrument in the defeat of ratification, is the only place in the State where the vote constitutes any sort of index on ratification, or where it had any direct political significance. With the result of the test at Watertown the Anti-Saloon League is well pleased.

"The women in New York have done fully as well as those in the suffrage States, which are under State prohibition, did with their cities on the first trial. While women are stronger for prohibition than men, this sentiment does not express itself automatically or without organization.

"On the whole, most of the cities carried on effective campaigns, although some of them started too late to have any chance of victory. These dry cities, as object lessons, will help greatly in next year's campaign in the cities that did not vote this year.

"The wets always and everywhere succeed in fooling a good many communities the first time by the misrepresentation and by the other tactics they resort to and for which they are noted, and no city the size of Syracuse anywhere in the country ever was carried dry the first time.

"Prohibition is certain to be the overshadowing issue in the State election this fall, and the prohibition cause will be the gainer in the fall election as a result of this preliminary showing."

Asserting that the result of the local option elections in up-State cities shows conclusively that most people of this State oppose national prohibition William H. Hirst, attorney for the New York State Brewers Association and the Society of Restaurateurs of New York, said the up-State vote convinced him that every community if given the chance would vote in favor of permitting the sale of beer and lighter alcoholic drinks.

REVENUE LOSS, $843,938.

Total of 972 Drinking Places Wiped Out by Election.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

ALBANY, April 18.—Gov. Whitman would not comment to-day upon the result of the local option elections. Neither did Thaddeus C. Sweet, Speaker of the State Assembly. Elon R. Brown, State Senator, said: "The most interesting thing about the local option election is that women vote like other men."

As a result of the twenty-one up-State cities which voted dry yesterday the number of licenses in the State will be lessened by 972 and the revenue lost to the State and municipalities will be $843,938. Many small communities which became cities in order to escape the dry results of local option elections in the towns voted dry, and some of these may return to the village form of government to reduce expenses.

LOVER IN NAVY TOLD TOO MUCH

His Letter Lands Italian Who Carried It in Jail.

An American naval officer with a sweetheart in this borough, recently wrote a letter to her from Gibraltar, telling her other things than his love for her, which censors do not cut, and entrusted to Giuseppe Schiaffiano, second officer of an Italian steamship that arrived at this port yesterday. Schiaffiano expected to take the letter ashore and post it, but it was found in his room when naval intelligence officers searched the ship and he was arrested.

It was a harmless letter, except in the part where the naval officer mentioned the war zone routes he had taken and the nature of the dangerous work he was doing.

Prosecutor Beer declined to give out the name of the letter writer, but said he was a young Lieutenant in the Naval Reserve, and that the letter referred to a mysterious vessel the Yankees were successfully using against U-boats and said: "If any one at home makes fun of the Naval Reserve, just tell them what the reserve is doing out here." The name of the young woman to whom the Lieutenant unbosomed himself also was withheld.

Schiaffiano was taken before United States Commissioner McGoldrick in Brooklyn, pleaded guilty and was held in $1,000 bail for the Federal Grand Jury. He said he had agreed to mail the letter merely to accommodate the naval officer.

Will Irwin to Speak.

Will Irwin will tell of his experiences as a war correspondent at a meeting of Stanford University alumni and alumnæ in the Rose Room of the Hotel Majestic, Central Park West and Seventy-second street, to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock. Stanford University will send a unit of fifteen women to France for civilian relief work. The meeting will be held in support of this undertaking.

70 BAKERS CALLED FOR WHEAT WASTE

Pending Trial, Food Board Holds Class for Others in New Recipes.

POTATO EATING URGED

New Maxims Issued Include Warning Against Midnight Suppers.

Pending the hearing of seventy more complaints against bakers for violation of the wheat substitute rule, the Federal Food Board yesterday assumed the role of expert adviser to 150 bakers who have no desire to run counter to the law through ignorance. The rule that went into effect April 14 increases the amount of substitute flour to be used to 25 per cent.

A. J. Gunderman, president of the New York Master Bakers Association, presided at yesterday's meeting. Two experts, Joseph Bachman and John W. Townley, gave demonstrations as to the use of substitutes, and displayed formulas upon which the new regulations are based. It was announced that all the large bakers in the city will throw open their shops for the benefit of the bakers doing a small business, so they may learn how to obey the regulations in a practical way without lessening profits.

The hearings for violations of the substitute rule will be continued to-day, Mr. Williams stated.

The board called special attention to the importance of eating potatoes to reduce the meat consumption. The campaign for the use of this food which has been under way since Monday has already achieved notable results, it was said. The markets are clearing from the increased public demand. Yesterday fifty-one cars of potatoes were received in the city.

Herbert Hoover, the Food Administrator, took personal note of the voluntary action of New York clubs in deciding to conserve wheat in a telegram of commendation to Chairman James Cox Brady of the club committee.

The public is urged to give up the use of wheat flour entirely in a bulletin issued by the board. It is asserted that the production of cornmeal and corn flour has so heavily increased that it can safely be used as a wheat substitute. The monthly production of this flour is put at 540,000 bushels. It is stated that in the past year and a half the production of corn flour has increased 500 per cent.

"The United States Food Administration announces," the bulletin says, "that it is now ready to care for all cornmeal demands in any part of the United States. If the American people would give up wheat entirely there would be an abundance of cornmeal, with what corn flour there is available, to care for all our needs until after the next harvest."

The board issues also the following maxims for food conservation:

"Discourage eating between meals.

"Don't eat midnight suppers.

"Don't use more than two and one-quarter pounds of wheat flour per person per week. Make this amount less if you can.

"Buy only three pounds of sugar per person per month.

"Use not more than two pounds of meat per person per week.

"Deny yourself pastry and during the next three weeks eat potatoes freely to save the wheat."

$5,000 IF SHE GETS DIVORCE.

But Sadie Klein Must Remarry to Get Father's Bequest.

If Mrs. Sadie Klein of 147 West 119th street obtains an absolute divorce from her husband, Emanuel Klein, and remarries another man she will receive the income of a trust fund of $5,000 and a one-sixth interest in the residuary estate of her father, John Miller, who died March 31. This provision was contained in his will, filed for probate in the Surrogate's court yesterday. The estate is valued at more than $100,000.

Miller's other children are notified by the will, which was drawn in December, 1913, that if they do not marry, or if they marry a person belonging to other than the Jewish faith, any sums left them shall be cancelled. The only charitable bequest is one of $1,000 to the Downtown Talmud Torah.

The widow, Lena, receives a third of the residuary estate in lieu of dower. His daughter, Celia Miller Lavine of 131 West 110th street, gets $10,000 and a sixth of the residuary; his daughter, Bessie Adler of 112 West 110th street, a sixth of the residuary, and his daughter, May Miller, one sixth of the residuary and $7,000.

HOME PAPERS FOR SOLDIERS.

Westchester Editors to Supply All Men From County.

Forty-one editors of newspapers in Westchester county pledged last night their cooperation to William Boyce Thompson in arrangements he has made for sending home papers regularly to every Westchester soldier now with the United States forces. The editors were Mr. Thompson's guests at dinner at the Hotel Biltmore.

Mr. Thompson, who lives in Yonkers, began sending the Yonkers papers to soldiers from that city a few weeks ago. Letters which he received from the front, explaining how welcome the home news was, induced him to extend the service to make it county wide. There are 7,000 Westchester soldiers and sailors now with the colors, and beginning immediately home papers will be despatched to all of them.

IDA VERNON GETS DAMAGES.

Veteran Actress Claimed She Was Hurt by Surface Car.

Ida Vernon, who has been on the stage for sixty-two years and is said to have been the fiancee of Edwin Booth, with whom she played half a century ago, appeared before Justice Platzek and a jury in the Supreme Court yesterday as plaintiff in a suit for $15,000 against the New York Railways Company. Just as the veteran actress—she is 81 years old—was about to take the witness stand it was announced that the defence had settled for a "substantial sum."

Mrs. Vernon was playing a part with William Hodge in "Fixing Sister" on October 24, 1916, and was on her way home after the performance, when she was thrown to the pavement by the sudden starting of a surface car at Broadway and Seventieth street. She was injured about the spine and head, it was alleged.

PORT WAGES TO BE ADJUSTED.

Representatives of Unions, Owners and Government Meet Here.

Representatives of union organizations of marine engineers, the American Steamship Association, comprising owners of the majority of American steamship lines, and the United States Shipping Board began yesterday a series of meetings to adjust a request of the men for a new wage scale to become effective May 1.

The meetings will continue until a satisfactory agreement is reached.

The Sun Calendar

For Eastern New York: partly cloudy to-day; continued cool; fair to-morrow; moderate northwest to north winds.

For New Jersey: cloudy and cooler to-day; probably light rain in the early morning; fair to-morrow; fresh west to northwest winds.

For northern New England: cloudy to-day; snow flurries in eastern Maine; fair and continued cool to-morrow; moderate north winds.

For southern New England: clearing early to-day; continued cool; fair to-morrow; moderate east to north winds.

For western New York: showers to-day in the early morning; partly cloudy and continued cool to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—The weather of the last twenty-four hours has been marked by a sharp fall in temperature extending from New England and westward to the lake region. In many parts of this area there has been more less snow, with temperature below freezing. The temperature is also low for the season in the Rocky Mountain region and the eastern foothills, with a fall of snow in western South Dakota, eastern Wyoming, Colorado and northern New Mexico. Rain is indicated for Friday in southern New England, the middle Atlantic States, the east Gulf States and western Tennessee, and there will be rain Saturday in the east Gulf and south Atlantic States, Tennessee and the lower Ohio Valley.

It will be much cooler Friday in the middle Atlantic States and the upper Ohio Valley and temperatures will continue for several days in New England, the middle Atlantic States and the lake region.

LOCAL WEATHER RECORDS.

	8 A. M.		8 P. M.
Barometer	29.79		29.91
Humidity	48		56
Wind—direction	S W		N W
Wind—velocity	12		14
Weather	Cloudy		Cloudy
Precipitation	.04		None

The temperature in this city yesterday, as recorded by the official thermometer, is shown in the annexed table:

8 A. M.	65	1 P. M.	54	6 P. M.	48
9 A. M.	64	2 P. M.	51	7 P. M.	47
10 A. M.	63	3 P. M.	54	8 P. M.	47
11 A. M.	63	4 P. M.	51	9 P. M.	47
12 M.	55	5 P. M.	52	10 P. M.	47

	1918.	1917.		1918.	1917.
9 A. M.	64	50	6 P. M.