SELF-DEFENCE PLEA MADE BY MRS. LEBAUDY

"Husband Threatened My Life for 15 Years," She Tells Weeks.

MURDER CHARGE IS MADE

Doctors Oppose Her Removal to Mineola to Face Grand Jury Sitting There.

Fruitless efforts were made all day yesterday by District Attorney Charles R. Weeks and other officials of Nassau county to learn from Mme. Marie Lebaudy just why she had shot to death her wealthy and eccentric husband. She killed Jacques Lebaudy, the self-styled "Emperor of the Sahara," during a scuffle in Mme. Lebaudy's splendid country home, Phoenix Lodge, on Hempstead Plains, early Saturday night.

Mme. Lebaudy still remained in her bed on the second floor of the Lodge, attended by Dr. Howard M. Phipps of Hempstead, Dr. G. F. Cleghorn of Mineola and the trained nurse, Miss Minnie Welders, who was in the house at the time of the murder.

Despite the statements of the physicians that Mme. Lebaudy's physical condition—owing to an attack of bronchitis and the shock resulting from her experiences of Saturday night—is such that it would not be wise to move her, District Attorney Weeks intends to try to have her taken to Mineola either to-day or to-morrow to be questioned before the January Grand Jury, which is now in session at the county seat.

Formal Charge Made.

A formal charge of murder was made against Mme. Lebaudy yesterday morning by Constable Leonard Thorn. Coroner Walter R. Jones said last night that regardless of Mme. Lebaudy's condition he intends to hold an inquest on Wednesday. Drs. Phipps and Cleghorn performed an autopsy on the body of Lebaudy yesterday morning. They were unable to locate all five bullets which Mme. Lebaudy fired into her husband's body. An X-ray will be made before the inquest.

Lebaudy's body is at Cornell's undertaking rooms at Hempstead. No funeral arrangements have yet been made by friends of the dead man, who are looking after his affairs. Edwin T. Murdoch, a Manhattan attorney, who said he had been Lebaudy's lawyer, said at Hempstead yesterday that no permanent interment would take place until an answer was received to a cablegram which Mr. Murdoch said he had sent to Lebaudy's brothers and sisters in France.

Mme. Lebaudy's maiden name, according to the lawyer, was Marie Augustine Da Loch Dellière. She was sometimes erroneously known, Murdoch said further, as "the Countess Da Loch." She speaks little English—the argument which immediately preceded the shooting was entirely in French—and seemingly even her small stock of English has been forgotten since the murder; at any rate Mme. Lebaudy, when questioned by the officers yesterday, as a rule either silently shook her head or remained motionless, her eyes closed, when the officers tried to make her speak.

Admitted Shooting, Says Weeks.

She was quoted as having said once yesterday to District Attorney Weeks, however, that she had shot her husband.

"Yes, I shot him," was her reply, said Mr. Weeks, to one of his questions. "He was threatening my life for fifteen years and I couldn't stand it any longer."

Mme. Lebaudy's fifteen-year-old daughter, Jacqueline, who inherits much of her mother's striking beauty, remained with Mme. Lebaudy throughout the day. It is the intention of District Attorney Weeks to have Jacqueline, who first gave the alarm after the shooting, tell her story before the Grand Jury to-day or to-morrow. At the same time the county authorities will endeavor to pry information from servants and other employees at the Lodge, some of whom, it is thought, can tell much more than so far they have been willing to tell.

One of Mme. Lebaudy's servants who probably will be quizzed extensively to-day is a French girl named Alice Ragneut, who has been a cook for the Lebaudys for fourteen years. Another is an old Frenchman who worked about the grounds. The nurse, Miss Minnie Welders, also will be questioned to-day or to-morrow at Mineola. It is thought that an indictment for murder will be returned against Mme. Lebaudy within the next twenty-four hours, whereupon she will be removed as soon as possible to the cell occupied at various times by the women who in recent years have stirred Nassau county when accused of two notorious killings—Mrs. John Longer De Saulles and Mrs. Carman.

While throngs of curiosity seekers lined the roadway in front of the Lodge yesterday they saw a woman who was said to be Mrs. Charles De Saulles, wife of a brother of the late John L. De Saulles, enter Mme. Lebaudy's house. The Box, where John De Saulles was murdered, is close to the Lodge. It was said later by guards about Mme. Lebaudy's house that the visitor was Mrs. Charles De Saulles, and that Mrs. De Saulles had visited Mme. Lebaudy and had talked with her for some time.

She Is Constantly Guarded.

Mme. Lebaudy is constantly guarded by detectives and other county officers. County Detective Carman Plant and Deputy Sheriff Thomas Barbuti remain inside the house throughout the day and are relieved at night by Deputy Sheriff Charles O'Connor and Constable Thorn.

Despite the emphatic statements of Lebaudy's lawyer, Murdoch, yesterday that Lebaudy was a clear minded man, capable of conducting important financial transactions in sensible fashion, many stories, some of them from authoritative sources that could not be questioned, were told yesterday of his eccentricities in Manhattan hotels and at various points on Long Island.

On Saturday Lebaudy breakfasted in the men's cafe on the Broadway side of the Hotel McAlpin, and later in the day, or about six hours before he was shot, entered the same Broadway hotel for luncheon. As usual he insisted upon wearing his heavy brown ulster while at the table, the high collar of the ulster turned up well around his neck and chin.

For years he had been a familiar figure at the McAlpin, and he also was known to House Detective Jacobs of the Astor. None of the hotel detectives seemed to know where he lived, but they had come to know him because of his various eccentricities whenever he entered one of the big hotels here for his meals.

The waiters who usually took his orders said yesterday that occasionally he drank a cocktail, but rarely drank anything with his meals. He was never seen to enter the bar of any of the Broadway hotels he frequented. Usually he was irritable with the waiters who served him, but never gave serious trouble in the dining rooms and he was quietude itself when in the lobbies.

It was said at the Hotel Albert last night—a Hotel Albert key was found in his pocket after he had been shot—that he was altogether unknown there. At all the hotels he frequented it was said that he always came into the dining rooms unaccompanied. Always he wore a long ulster, a muffler about his neck winter and summer, a flat crowned derby hat of an old fashion or a fuzzy fedora, and the inevitable portfolio of black leather under his arm, without which he never was seen.

As the result of one of his riotous visits to Mme. Lebaudy at the Lodge about three months ago several thousand dollars worth of beautiful furniture went up in smoke. First he raved through the Lodge, smashing new furniture right and left with an axe, and then he lugged the pieces to the basement and thrust them into the furnace.

Following another such visit which he made at the Lodge about three weeks ago Mme. Lebaudy was taken down with the cold which developed into the bronchitis from which she now is suffering. On the visit in question Lebaudy not only roughhoused the furnishings again, but also smashed the heating plant of the house, whereupon Mme. Lebaudy had to install oil stoves to try to keep herself and daughter warm. The cold followed the lack of heat in the house.

On one of these recent visits Mme. Lebaudy appealed over the telephone to Sheriff Phineas Seaman for help, as she had done on other occasions. She was advised to ask protection from members of the State Constabulary stationed near her country home.

Preparing for His Army.

Within the last few years Lebaudy caused excitement on Long Island by announcing to horse dealers, farmers and others that he was anxious to buy horses to equip an "army" of cavalry which he was about to send somewhere or other. Somultaneously he decided also to buy up Long Island cattle, which he said were to be killed to feed his "army."

Thirty Long Island horse traders and others managed to sell him many antiquated specimens of horseflesh. Within a few months he had gatheerd so many head of horses and cattle that the Hempstead health authorities had to take action against him because of complaints made.

Last summer he arrived on a sloop at Oyster Bay. Upon landing there he went to an Oyster Bay plumber and insisted that the plumber bore holes in the sloop to sink her. Then, he said, he would show that he could raise the sloop again to the surface by means of an invention which was to "revolutionize naval warfare." The plumber refused to take part in the venture, and Lebaudy, very wrathful, sailed away.

Usually he carried from $1,000 to many times that amount in the black leather portfolio, which he always lugged about with him. Long Island residents said yesterday that on one occasion he had displayed $20,000 in bills and tucked the roll back in the portfolio again. Whenever his erratic behavior brought him into trouble with the authorities he was prepared to pay fines or deposit cash bail in any amount asked.

Although abusive at times to Broadway waiters, no instances could be found where he had physically harmed any one, except the flacks he is said to have made upon Mme. Lebaudy.

Recently Declared Sane.

On the complaint of Mme. Lebaudy he was committed on October 5 last to an asylum at Amityville, so Lawyer Murdoch said yesterday. Three days later, added the lawyer, he escaped but was recaptured and sent to the asylum at Kings Park, Long Island. Lawyer Murdoch thereupon secured his release on a habeas corpus proceeding and Lebaudy again, according to Murdoch, was declared sane by a commission before Justice Callaghan in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn.

Murdoch declared yesterday that he had taken charge of the murdered man's estate in this country, including the Lodge, which the lawyer believed to be worth about $150,000. Mme. Lebaudy is said to have been living on an allowance of $25,000 a year, which her husband had been ordered to pay her.

Officers who searched the house yesterday said they had found little food or other evidences of the comforts which many in the vicinity had been led to believe would be found about the place. Neighbors told the officers that the little girl, Jacqueline, had been taken away from her studies at Brentwood Academy several months ago because Mme. Lebaudy "didn't think she could afford" to keep her daughter in the academy.

CARUSO AT LAST HAS STAGE FRIGHT

Abashed as a Schoolboy Speaking His First "Piece" by Getting War Honors.

In the long day of his operatic reign kings have paid homage to the gift of Caruso; for twenty years the world's applause of superlative accomplishment has been ringing in his ears. And so it is strange that something akin to stage fright overcame him last night, but it did. He was abashed as a schoolboy speaking his first "piece" when he arose to express his appreciation of the compliments paid him at the dinner given in his honor by the Society of Arts and Sciences at the Hotel Biltmore.

To a certain extent, it is true, they had been different. Nervously toying with his napery, the great Italian heard himself bracketed as one of the two great artistic benefactors of his generation with Charlie Chaplin. Andreas de Segurola, his fellow artist of the Metropolitan and his disciple and friend for many years, was the speaker who rose to this height in eulogy of the famous tenor.

A titter or two from some of the diners who thought they saw something incongruous in the coupling of the names were silenced by the declaration of De Segurola that he meant literally and exactly just what he said.

One of the first speakers, referring to the cosmopolitan character of Caruso's popularity, used with telling oratorical effect the phrase, "Our Caruso! Your Caruso!" It caught the fancy of the succeeding orators and they nearly all employed it. It remained for De Wolf Hopper to sound a variation:

"Our Caruso! Your Caruso! My cousin!"

Mr. Hopper explained that he was there to do honor not so much to Caruso of the opera as to Caruso of the screen. Geraldine Farrar, who was a guest, was also hailed by Mr. Hopper a fellow of the moving picture craft.

The object of the dinner was to give recognition to Caruso's service to the cause of the Allies and all of the speakers were warm in their praise of his generosity in contributing on many occasions to the success of war charities by singing for their benefit.

Otto H. Kahn, manager of the Metropolitan Opera House, speaking from long association with the honor guest, extolled his human qualities apart from his gift of song. W. J. Henderson, the critic, gave a scholarly address on Italy's contributions to art.

Other speakers included Rubin Goldmark, president of the Bohemian Club; Geraldine Farrar and Senator Salvatore Cotillo. Augustus Thomas was toastmaster. A chorus from the Metropolitan Opera House sang the anthems of the United States and the Allies.

SMITH MILK BOARD CALLS WITNESSES

Will Confer With Leaders of Rival Factions To-day on Price Dispute.

RECEIPTS TAKE A JUMP

Bronx Consumers League Is Planning to Buy Direct From the Producers.

Milk receipts took a jump of 87,719 quarts yesterday, a total of 1,360,000 quarts coming in, as against 1,272,381 on Saturday, on which day the supply fell 173,792 quarts below that of Friday. Dr. Royal S. Copeland, Health Commissioner, who gets his reports from department inspectors direct from the railroads, said he could vouch for their accuracy. He characterized as absurd the contention of Albert Manning, secretary of the Dairymen's League, that the city is not getting more than a 25 per cent. daily supply.

Gov. Smith's Milk Commission will meet at noon to-day at the office of Robert E. Dowling, chairman, 165 Broadway. In response to a resquest of Mr. Dowling, R. D. Cooper, president, and John D. Miller, vice-president of the Dairymen's League, representing the producers, and Charles A. Weiant and Isaac A. Van Home, representing the distributers, will tell the chairman whether they can or cannot agree.

It was evident last night that the farmers and the dealers are as far apart as ever in regard to prices for January milk.

E. Elkin Nathans, secretary of the Milk Conference Board, said: "The buyers will make no offer higher than $3.60."

President Cooper of the league said: "The farmers are standing firm for $4.01."

According to Chairman Dowling: "If they can't agree then there is no possibility of this commission settling the controversy and the Legislature will be asked to take more drastic steps to compel a settlement."

Passing the Buck Along.

There seems to be a very decided impression among producers and distributers that the troublesome milk situation has not been made less troublesome by the activities of men holding public office. Mayor Hylan started the ball arolling by declaring that something had to be done. He passed the job along to District Attorney Swann and a John Doe inquiry was started. Then the District Attorney asked Gov. Smith to do something and do it in a hurry, and the Governor appointed his commission. Now both producers and distributers suspect that the Governor will have to pass the job along to the State Legislature and both sides to the controversy are asking: "What can the Legislature do?"

"The milk situation is improving rapidly from the standpoint of the dairymen," Mr. Cooper, the league president, said last night. "Hundreds of reports show that the dairymen are more united than ever, realizing that they must win the fight against the big Borden-Sheffield milk combine, or go out of the dairy business. Less milk is being received each day, despite reports to the contrary.

"Consumers realize this because they know they are not getting the milk. Consumers also know that much of that purchased of the large dealers in the combine is not of good quality. The milk middlemen claim credit for reducing the farmers' price so low that if accepted thousands of farmers must make immediate arrangements to reduce their dairy herds and go in other lines of farming. But with all the dealers' generosity, has own margin is not reduced at all, and this margin is nearly twice that made by milk dealers in other cities. Despite dealers' misleading statements, farmers' prices for milk in New York in 1918 were below the average throughout the United States."

No Increase in Price Offer.

Secretary Nathans of the Milk Conference Board, issued this statement last night: "The announcement in to-day's newspapers that the buyers of milk were prepared to increase their offer of $3.60 for January milk provided the producers were willing to make some concession, and not insist upon $4.01 per 100 pounds, is likely to be misinterpreted by the producers. The buyers have not made any offer and will make none higher than $3.60 for January.

"This position is based upon sound business considerations, the reasons for which have been so clearly set forth from time to time. These considerations are that the amount of milk in the market does not warrant a higher price than has been offered, and that the producers in all other territories are voluntarily selling their milk at less than New York buyers have offered.

"We are daily increasing the supply received from normal sources, as well as the quantity of milk being brought in from outside to make up the deficiency in the normal supply. The resumption of the ferries on the Jersey shore, ending the inconvenience of the last several days, has tended to relieve the situation materially."

The Consumers' League of The Bronx is preparing to purchase milk through the Dairymen's League direct from the farmers at first cost.

FAVORS POWDERED MILK.

Speaker Sweet Says This Is Solution of Problem.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

ALBANY, Jan. 12.—Speaker Thaddeus C. Sweet of the Assembly to-night gave out a statement on the milk situation from the side of the producer, declaring farmers are just learning how much it is costing them to produce milk, and insisting that if the public were thoroughly enlightened as to the cost of milk at the farm the producer would not be expected to take less for it than he is asking at present.

Speaker Sweet, who represents a farming district, says that in his opinion powdered milk is the answer to the entire milk problem, as the distribution of milk in this form through the corner grocery will mean the elimination of the present costly means of handling milk and transporting it to the centres of consumption. The Speaker says he was not talking in the interest of any producer of powdered milk, as there are many manufacturers putting out this product, and he knows of one firm that has a contract with a foreign Government for 15,000,000 pounds of powdered milk which is continued in force although the war is ended.

Mrs. H. N. Cobb Thrown by Horse.

Mrs. Helen N. Cobb, wife of James Cobb, president of the Abercrombie-Fitch Company, was injured yesterday when she was thrown from her horse while riding in Central Park. The animal, frightened by a piece of paper, threw his rider and started to run away, but was caught by Patrolman Frederick Harmes of the Arsenal precinct. Mrs. Cobb, suffering from lacerations of the head and knee, was taken to her home at 460 Riverside Drive in an ambulance.

MRS. MARY M. LILLY LIKES ASSEMBLY JOB VERY MUCH

New York Woman Finds All of Her Men Associates "Just Lovely."

SHE GETS A FRONT SEAT

Care of State's Mental Defectives Will Occupy Much of Her Time.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 12.—"Well, you can say that I like my new job very much," said Mrs. Mary M. Lilly, the new Assemblywoman from the Seventh New York district, to a SUN man who wanted to find out how the first woman elected to the State Assembly from a New York city district was getting along in the State Legislature.

No wonder she likes it, thought the reporter, for Mrs. Lilly had in her handbag $130 that had just been given to her by the Assembly pay clerk. Thirty dollars of this was mileage money that a member of Assembly gets but once a year. The rest was pay, and a hasty calculation showed that the Assembly had been in session only four times in the ten days for which Mrs. Lilly was being paid. It seems that members of the Legislature get paid at the rate of $10 a day for 100 days, and if the session drags along much after that time they have to pay their own expenses, for the pay clerk holds back a part of their $1,500 a year salary until the close of the last day.

Mrs. Lilly, who is a lawyer and was admitted to the bar in 1896 after being graduated at the New York University Law School as the first woman to win a full scholarship, has had a very pleasant time during her public life in Albany. She always has been a suffrage advocate, taught school in New York for ten years, and from 1909 has been deeply interested in the New York city Children's Court, in which work she was very active.

Student of Humanity.

"All my life I have made a study of humanity," said Mrs. Lilly. "I have watched the young and the old to make sure I could judge right, and I hope to be of some use when the Legislature takes up the problem of caring for the State's mental defectives. In my school and court work I got so I could tell children who were weak from those with criminal inclinations, defectives, and those the undercurrents get. I think this will be one of the real big problems the State must face."

Mrs. Lilly says she is glad there is another woman member of the Assembly, Mrs. Ida B. Sammis of Suffolk county, even though they cannot agree politically. Mrs. Lilly is a Democrat, and Mrs. Sammis a Republican.

"Things seemed odd and strange when I marched into this chamber the first night," said Mrs. Lilly. "It was the first time I had been more than ten feet away from the New York city policewomen, who escorted me here. Of course, the Assembly Chamber itself was nothing new to me, as I have been behind the rail in the rear of the members' seats many times, when I was here for or against various bills. I took part in the teachers' equal pay fight and others that are well remembered here.

"But to be privileged to go and take my own seat as a member of this Assembly, a seat of my own, was something new and strange. The men have been lovely, and the Democrats have acted as though they were glad to have me here, and that has been a very comforting feeling for me. The Republicans, too, are all nice to me, and do you know, as a matter of fact, you cannot tell a Republican from a Democrat to look at them."

Mrs. Lilly, who comes from the Seventh Manhattan Assembly district, was permitted to take seat number 7 in the well of the Assembly Chamber, the very front seat on the Democratic side of the house.

No Political Strife.

Politics has not bothered Mrs. Lilly much up to the present time. She declares she is a Democrat who will stay with the party, and does not expect to "kick over the traces." She was very flustered when she was escorted down the centre aisle of the chamber on the opening night, a little late for the start of the session, but just in time to hear the clerk call her name.

"What's it for?" whispered Mrs. Lilly to Democratic Leader Charles D. Donohue, who had escorted her to her seat.

"It's all right, vote for me," said Donohue, and Mrs. Lilly did, as did all the other members of the Democratic party, for they were voting on the Speakership, and as a perfunctory precaution the Democrats always vote for their leader for this office.

Mrs. Lilly finds that she is meeting so many people she cannot remember all their names.

"It is so hard for me to remember names," she said. "But they tell me a good politician must remember them and I am going to set my mind to it and do the best I can."

During the memorial service in the Assembly for Theodore Roosevelt Republican Leader Simon L. Adler read part of a magazine article written by Mr. Roosevelt in 1885, just after the completion of his third year in the Assembly, in which he referred to the fact that so many reformers brought "isms" to the Assembly to be adopted right off hand.

Has Hatred for "Isms."

"Like Mr. Roosevelt, I hate the isms," said Mrs. Lilly. "I am dreading them even now. I think new ideas should be a matter of education instead of one of legislation. You cannot legislate them into the people, but you could educate the people up to wanting them. That is just what happened in regard to woman suffrage. That movement was under development for fifty years. If a movement grows and the people want it, then comes the time for legislative action. Of course if people bring their isms here as part of an educational propaganda that is all right, but they don't. Most of them want their programmes swallowed whole, without giving the Legislature time to look or time to prepare to digest the plan."

Mrs. Lilly expects to introduce a bill abolishing capital punishment, says she wants to beautify Riverside Park by getting the railroad tracks covered over and also plans to take an active interest in educational movements. Places were given to her by Speaker T. C. Sweet on the Assembly Committees on Education and Public Welfare, along with Mrs. Sammis, and probably will have the opportunity to do some useful work along the lines that interest her most.

Mrs. Mary M. Lilly

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FLOOD STOPS CARS IN BROADWAY TUBE

B. R. T. Subway, City Hall to Times Square, Closed by a Burst Main.

A bursted water main near Broadway and Fourteenth street began flooding the Broadway subway just after 3 o'clock yesterday morning and poured in so many millions of gallons within three hours, before the water gates were found and the supply shut off, that trains between Times Square and City Hall were discontinued. It is the hope, however, of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company to resume traffic as far north as Fourteenth street early this morning.

Traffic north of Fourteenth street will remain suspended until the water is pumped out of the excavation, which will be exceedingly difficult owing to the sewers in the new subway being sealed, necessitating the pumping of the water to the streets and causing it to flow off in the surface drainage.

The water reached the level of the platforms in the station at Twenty-third street and extended north and south in the tracks to Thirty-fourth street and almost to Chambers street.

Electrical pumps and a fire engine began pumping early in the morning at Twenty-third street, lowering the water level considerably. Just when the line will be in complete operation again is not known, but it is believed resumption can be made by to-night.

Water gates to the broken main, a thirty-six inch pipe, were at Twenty-eighth street and Broadway. Their closing, however, will not shorten the water supply in the district or affect the fire hydrant supply, William W. Brush, chief engineer of the Department of Water Supply, said yesterday. There are duplicate systems that were put in commission immediately.

The B. R. T. management arranged to run all West End and Sea Beach trains into the Chambers street station via the "loop," thus taking care of the traffic.

The break was sixty feet underground. The water first filled an excavation of the new crosstown subway in Fourteenth street and overflowed into the Broadway, rushing down hill to Twenty-third street and beyond. After filling the valley it flowed southward until it met the hill just north of Chambers street. Pumping continued throughout the night.

LABORITES ACCEPT RADICAL PLATFORM

Newly Formed Organization Has Stormy Session, but Avoids Riot.

At the end of a stormy two day convention at Yorkville Casino, 210 East Eighty-sixth street, yesterday the newly created American Labor party of Greater New York formed by vote of 884 delegates of practically every trade union in this city, found itself with a working business organization, a platform and funds to carry the movement along until the permanent party is formed.

The platform, covering a wide range of subjects, many of them radical, was adopted with little dissent. The meeting was later thrown into a hubbub over the discovery that one of the planks demanded the immediate release from prison of conscientious objectors and anti-militarists.

Only heroic efforts by Chairman William John Kohn prevented the radical wing from stampeding the convention and passing a resolution calling upon President Wilson to grant freedom to "all political prisoners and those convicted for their sincere views on war and militarism."

Edward I. Hannah insisted there were no "political prisoners," and that those who had offended Federal laws should take their medicine. The resolution was finally recommitted for later report.

The platform included the following declaration:

For public ownership of public utilities, 100 per cent. taxation of all incomes over $100,000, single tax, prevention of excessive inheritances by heavy taxes, extension of free education in colleges and universities, opposition to universal military training and military training in the schools in peace times, and the local administration of schools by an elected Board of Education.

The platform indorsed President Wilson's peace views, stating that a league of nations should be supplemented by a "league of workers." Self-determination for Ireland, the immediate withdrawal of troops from Russia and openly conducted diplomacy were other demands.

Pershing Theatre Opens To-night.

The opening of the Pershing Theatre, Forty-fourth street and Madison avenue, which had been postponed, will take place to-night. "The Message of the Star of Gold," written by Miss Margaret Vail, will be presented with Miss Vail in the principal role. Men in uniform are invited.

SEATTLE BRINGS IN 1,500 SOLDIERS

Armored Cruiser Battered by Icy Gale All the Way.

ONLY FEW SAW FRONT

One Sailor Tells of Harsh Treatment by Germans in Prison Camp.

The armored cruiser Seattle, originally the Washington, came into port yesterday as a transport with her nose ice-sheated and battered by the most malignant winter seas her commander, Capt. J. R. Y. Blakely, ever has encountered in his career on many raging deeps.

Her 1,500 soldiers of various detachments, chiefly anti-aircraft and machine gun units, had several bad days when cliffike combers smashed aboard.

Many doughboys were knocked out, and one, Private Charles O. Headley of the 309th Trench Mortar Battery, fell dead on deck from heart disease aggravated by seasickness. The old war camouflage of the cruiser, covered by gray paint, washed away by the lashing crests, was revealed again.

The worst of the hurricane blasts came along from the Northwest on January 4, when the Seattle, which was running at her economic speed of about 300 miles a day, was able to make only ninety-five in the tumult. Her forward decks were awash hours at a stretch and only the veterans reported at meals. One towering gray back that broke aboard carried away the after starboard lifeboat, two life rafts and wrecked a boat forward, besides crumpling the forecastle bulkhead.

All Hands Kept Aboard.

The soldiers were mighty happy when the cruiser tied up to the solid earth of Hoboken, but were disappointed when told that they could not set foot on it until to-day. All hands took the order good humoredly, learning later that it was partly of a disciplinary nature, in pursuance of the recently announced policy of Major-Gen. Shanks, in charge of embarkation, who found the discipline of officers relaxing on arrival.

Naval Seaman John Peter Yost of New Orleans, of the Seattle's crew, told of his experience in German prison camps and the events that preceded his capture. He was attached to the naval aviation base at Dunkirk, and on July 7 he put out in a scout patrol with six others to answer a wireless distress signal from a seaplane. They found no trace of the seaplane, and sighting another plane, received instructions from her to follow her course. They did, and finally losing her came within gunshot of the neighborhood of Ostend. The German batteries began shelling them and they jumped overboard a few minutes before a shell sunk their little ship. Two of his shipmates were killed by shells while swimming toward shore. He and four others landed and were made prisoners.

Saved by Red Cross.

Yost was badly treated in Belgium for several months. Later he received better food and more consideration at the fortress at Rastatt. He took a bundle of wood to warm up an American prisoner who was ill. For this they threatened to put him in a dark room on bread and water for two weeks, but through the intercession of a Bavarian Captain who was twenty years connected with the office of the Krupps in this city, he avoided this punishment. His last experience was at a camp in the Black Forest, where there were many Americans. The Red Cross saved them from starvation. When the armistice came the Red Cross gave him a soldier's uniform to take the place of his tattered sailor duds and sent him to Switzerland. He made his way to Brest and joined the crew of the Seattle.

There were no units among the soldiers who had seen service at the front, but twenty-eight officers and 737 men under Major O. J. Quane of the Fourth Anti-Aircraft Machine Gun Battalion had been ordered forward and were close to the front when the armistice was signed. The only soldier in action was Major Quane himself formerly a newspaper man of St. Peter, Minn., and a veteran of the Spanish-American war and the Mexican border troubles. He saw service as a military observer getting data for his own command at Saint Mihiel, Chateau Thierry and the Argonne with the First and Second Batteries. As an artilleryman he said he had to take off his hat to the infantrymen of the Seventy-seventh Division who puzzled the Boche and could not be held back, fearing and stopping at nothing.

The soldiers aboard the Seattle fervently thanked the commander, his officers and all his men for the fine treatment on the tumultuous trip. A big Minnesotan went to an officer of the cruiser as she neared port and remarked: "Sir, if there is another war I know where you can get a hundred volunteers for the navy, and I'll be one." All hands said they never had finer chow on land. The spirit of the bluejackets was illustrated in the giving up of their sleeping quarters to the men in khaki. To make room for the soldiers the ship's company, consisting of 1,100 men in war time, was reduced to 600, and these shifted for themselves, stowing away anywhere, in gun turrets, alleys, stokeholds and any sort of nook that would hold a man. The soldiers appreciated this spirit of sacrifice and said so.

Among the voyagers not of the army were P. S. Tisdale, civilian and special courier, supposedly with films, for the Bureau of Public Information; Lieut.-Commander S. L. Hazard of the navy, who was in charge of an aviation base in France; Lieut. Merrill I. Delano and seven naval Ensigns.

FIND NO CLUE TO MURDER.

Brooklyn Detectives Vainly Search in Southland Case.

Detectives of the Fourth avenue, Brooklyn, police station investigating the murder of Mrs. Helma Southland of 672 Forty-sixth street in a vacant lot near her home, visited a number of Brooklyn hospitals and institutions for the insane yesterday looking for a possible clue. They found nothing to warrant the assumption that the crime was committed by an escaped lunatic.

Meantime the women of the section have obtained police whistles and will carry them whenever they have occasion to be out after dark. Mrs. Edward G. Doherty of 721 Twenty-fifth street, political leader for her district, announced that she will see Commissioner Enright to-day and offer him the use of women police reserves to do day duty, to relieve more policemen for night patrol of this section.

Baptists to Raise $6,000,000 Fund.

The Baptists want $6,000,000 "to insure spiritual democracy at home and for reconstruction abroad." Dr. Fred P. Haggard, director of the national committee of Northern Baptist laymen, announced last night that it is planned to collect the money through teams of laymen.

HUMAN CHAIN FAILS TO SAVE COASTERS

Two Boys Drowned in Presence of Crowd.

Garrett Cooper, 13, and Fred Morley, 15, both of Paterson, were drowned in the Passaic River, opposite West Side Park, yesterday when their bobsled ran on to thin ice and broke through. A big crowd was watching the sleighing youngsters from the river bank and men and women shouted encouragement to them when, after the first plunge, the heads of both boys appeared above the surface and they reached out with their hands to grasp the sled that was floating near them.

Small ice cakes got between the boys and the sled, however, and both went down a second time. Wilfred Ellis, chum of the drowned boys, stepped out on the ice, holding the hand of Percy Temple. Slowly they edged their way out toward the open water. The ice began to crack and then John Sweitzer and Herbert Hennion crept down from the shore, laid down on the ice and Temple seized his ankles. Then Temple stretched himself flat and Sweitzer held him. Hennion formed the last link in the human chain and slowly the four slid along toward the spot where their companions still were struggling in the water. They reached the edge of the ice just as Cooper and Morley sank.

In their efforts to get back toward shore Ellis and Temple stood up and the ice broke beneath them. By that time, however, men had found a rowboat and were sliding it across the ice, and in a moment the second pair were dragged out of the water none the worse for their ducking. The bodies of Cooper and Morley were recovered by the police.

FIGHT NEAR END ON B. R. T. CO-RECEIVER

City Officials and Public Service Commission Likely to Agree on Appointee.

Despite the opinion of Mayor Hylan that Gov. Smith's most important job at present is to "get rid of that man Whitney," the same being Travis H. Whitney, acting chairman of the Public Service Commission, it is probable that city officials and Public Service Commissioners will bury the hatchet sufficiently deep and sufficiently long to agree on one man as coreceiver for the city's interests in the Brooklyn Rapid Transit bankruptcy.

As things stood on Saturday night it appeared that when the case of the B. R. T. came before Judge Mayer on Wednesday, William P. Burr, Corporation Counsel, representing the city's interests for the city officials, and William L. Ransom, special counsel, representing the city's interests for the Public Service Commissioners, would separately and even distantly apply for a receiver apiece to protect the city's interests.

Mr. Burr ventured the remark yesterday that it was "possible, if not likely," that the city and the commission will agree on a receiver.

"Probably the Public Service Commission will confer with me on that subject to-morrow," he said. "So far, however, no steps have been taken."

"That is entirely true," said Mr. Whitney later, when told of Corporation Counsel Burr's statement. "What shouldn't we? We're both on the same side in the case and both desire to look out for the interests of the city."

"Then you desire to cooperate with the city administration in the B. R. T. case despite the attitude and utterances of Mayor Hylan and other officials?" Commissioner Whitney was asked.

"As far as I am concerned I don't intend to subordinate public duty to personal dislikes, although this is contrary to the practice of some public officials," Mr. Whitney replied, with emphasis on "some public officials."

Just who the coreceiver is or receivers are going to be was a subject which neither side would discuss. Any talk concerning candidates, it was pointed out, would be highly indelicate and even dangerous for the talker, since it is a question for the court.

Meanwhile although the difference of the city administration and the Public Service Commission appear to be subsiding slightly, trouble is brewing in the relations between Lindley M. Garrison and the Public Service Commission. In its petition asking that a coreceiver be appointed the Public Service Commission criticized Mr. Garrison severely for keeping in continuous touch and conference with the officers of the B. R. T., yet failing and neglecting to use the "expert and disinterested information" gathered by the Public Service Commission.

Mr. Garrison admitted yesterday that he had scrutinized the wording of the petition, but would say nothing for publication concerning what he would do about it.

"If I do anything at all," he said, "it will be done to-morrow at my office."

HERVEY TO QUIT P. S. COMMISSION

Will Resign as Soon as Governor Appoints Another Member.

Charles S. Hervey, Public Service Commissioner in the New York city district, admitted last night the truth of a report originating in Albany to the effect that he intended to resign soon in order to accept a business office.

"It is my intention to resign as soon as possible," he said. "How soon that will be I am unable to determine, for if I resign now the power of the commission to act or make regulations would be destroyed. This is due to the fact that there are already two vacancies in the commission of five, and a majority is necessary legally to carry on the functions of the commission."

Mr. Hervey said that he intended to remain a Commissioner until Gov. Smith appointed another man or until the Foley bill, favored by the Governor, providing for a one man commission instead of a five man, was passed.

Gov. Smith's plan at the present time is not to fill any vacancies in the present commission. Mr. Hervey is likely to be a Commissioner for quite a time, for there seems to be little prospect at present of immediate Public Service Commission legislation. There is decided opposition to giving Tammany any legislation which would permit that political organization to completely control the completion of the subways.

TO FLOAT TRANSPORT SOON.

Full Moon Expected to Aid Work on Northern Pacific.

The stranded transport Northern Pacific probably will be floated within the next three days, naval authorities at Bayshore, L. I., said yesterday. The ship is now out 200 feet from her old position. The workers are awaiting a full moon, which is due in two days, believing that the water will be high enough then to make it possible to pull the ship off.

DR. MANNING PUTS HYLAN ON DEFENSIVE

Asserts Mayor Knew Hearst Selection Would Offend and Provoke Discord.

MASS MEETING FRIDAY

Trinity's Rector Indorses Independent Committee to Welcome Warriors.

That Mayor Hylan knew beforehand that the presence of William R. Hearst on the Committee to Welcome Returning Soldiers would be deeply offensive and would cause discord was the assertion made yesterday by the Rev. Dr. William T. Manning, rector of Trinity Chapel. He issued a statement scoring the Mayor for appointing Hearst and calling for the support of all good citizens in behalf of the independent committee which will take on the real responsibility of a patriotic, suitable welcome.

"The Mayor of New York city," said Dr. Manning, "has appointed a committee to welcome our homecoming troops. This action on the part of the Mayor was highly appropriate and most gratifying to all of us. The appointment of such a committee was hailed with universal approval. Citizens of every kind were ready and eager to give their help and felt that it would be a great honor to do so. But to the amazement of our loyal people, it was learned that the Mayor had made William Randolph Hearst a member of the committee and that he had appointed Mr. Hearst chairman of the sub-committee on military affairs.

Can Keep Personal Friendship.

"John F. Hylan has a right to have Mr. Hearst for his personal friend, if this is satisfactory to him. Mayor Hylan, acting in his official capacity, has no right to appoint on the committee of welcome to homecoming troops one whose presence on that committee he knew would be deeply offensive to a great part of our citizenship and to great numbers of the soldiers and sailors themselves.

"We must not fail, however, to give our men the welcome which they have so nobly earned. To provide for such a welcome is the purpose of the Independent Citizens Committee of Welcome. All citizens of New York, both men and women, who are in sympathy with the effort are asked to send in their names for enrolment in this committee. It is to include loyal citizens of all stocks, all faiths and all political views, and people desiring to join are requested to send their names to 415 Madison avenue.

"On Friday, January 17, at 8 P. M., a great meeting is to be held in Madison Square Garden. Let the families and friends of our soldiers and sailors be there in overwhelming numbers to express their feeling in this matter. Nothing is too good for the men who have been risking their lives to defend us. They are the finest lot of fellows the sun ever shone on, and they are our own. I believe that the wives, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sweethearts and friends of our men in the service will make the meeting on January 17 a demonstration which New York will not soon forget."

Arranging for Big Meeting.

The executive committee of the independent committee will meet this afternoon at 415 Madison avenue to complete arrangements for the mass meeting referred to by Dr. Manning. The complete list of speakers will be announced to-day. Patriotic citizens are urged to send checks to help defray the expenses of the mass meeting to B. L. Allen, assistant treasurer of the Columbia Trust Company, 60 Broadway.

Some of the well known persons already seeking membership in the independent committee are John Jay Chapman, Mrs. Frederick Vanderbilt, Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske, Lyle E. Mason, Charles E. Mantione, Charles Barnard Robinson, Robert C. Sands, Mrs. Arthur Iselin, Mrs. Oliven Cromwell Fish, Edgar F. Luckenbach, Clarence S. Thomson, the Rev. Dr. George R. Van De Water and Henry C. Quinby.

Tickets for the mass meeting are obtainable at the office of the American Defence Society,