WOUNDED LADS EAT 'BITE' AT BILTMORE

Nearly 1,000 Maimed in War Enjoy Feast Given by Patriot Bowman.

TWO GUESTS STONE BLIND

President Wilson's Chef Outdoes Gastronomic Feats on George Washington.

"Have a bite with me," barked young John McE. Bowman—the Jess Willard of hotel men—on the spur of the moment yesterday. "How about it, fellahs?"

"You're on, John," cried about 1,000 always hungry doughboys before John McE. (who, as has been intimated, is young and therefore somewhat impulsive) could reconsider and pussyfoot away while the going was good.

And that is why streets were blocked with applauding hundreds up around the Pershing Square neighborhood yesterday evening while for almost an hour young Mr. Bowman's dinner guests streamed into the Biltmore. Every man jack of the guests had been wounded in battle; they were, in fact, the last of the battle wounded to come home again. All were being temporarily nursed back to health at Debarkation Hospital No. 5 in the Grand Central Palace before being sent on to hospitals near their own homes, and it was in Debarkation Hospital Five that John McE. blurted out his invitation without stopping to consider what a Biltmore dinner to 1,000 was going to set him back financially.

It was the greatest dinner in the world—the reader may take that conservative statement on the word of the diners themselves. And the press table will back the wounded soldiers up and go them one better by saying that, in view of the fact that there were no speeches, it was the greatest dinner in any world.

There wasn't anything at the dinner but just the best food the best chef could put before the best fighting lads of the goshawfulest war of all time. Only food and flowers and ragtime and music and Hawaiian jazz music and, above all, no "Mister Chairman, laydees and gen-tul-mun—it affords me great pleasure to-night to welcome to our shores," &c., &c., &c. Grub, good grub, that's all. And smokes and the music and a glow of hospitality that caused Host Bowman to cry out at the last: "Take the flowers off the tables, boys, and lug them back to the hospital with you, if you want 'em. G'wan, clean out the place."

Just One, Only One, Speech.

Come to think of it, there was one speech. John McE. made it because somebody insisted that he appear on the balcony. Orator Bowman, once the cheering had died down a bit, said in whole:

"God bless you, boys. [Cheers.] I'd give you each a bottle of beer or two [more cheers], only the Government will not let me. [Groans.] S'long—I gotta go downstairs and get a bottle of beer myself." [Most cheers.]

It took from 5 o'clock to 5:50 P. M. for all of Mr. Bowman's guests to file from the hospital, a stone's throw away, largely because so many of the lads had been so pitifully wounded that scores of them could not, even for a moment, be taken from wheel chairs. Slowly the legless were trundled through the short blocks between the hospital and the Biltmore, more than forty of them being shoved along in invalid chairs by Red Cross nurses or army orderlies. Hundreds more were brought the short distance in ambulances driven by more Red Cross girls and in automobiles that the hospital workers and Mr. Bowman had scraped up. And there were long strings of the wounded who insisted upon hobbling the distance on crutches or with the aid of stout canes.

Two of the soldiers were stone blind. With each of these walked a Red Cross nurse. The crowds that flocked to the curbs to cheer and clap their hands grew suddenly silent as the two stalwart, clean cut blind boys came along, their eyes "looking" far off at eternal blackness in that fixed way which is peculiar to the sightless. Unconsciously the silent watchers, particularly the women, reached out hands as if to guide their careful steps as the blind went smiling onward.

For more than half an hour the Biltmore elevators at the north end of the hotel hummed up and down between the street level to the "Cascades" on the nineteenth floor of the hotel. In the elevators were the wheeling chairs with olive drab clad or bandaged legs sticking stiffly out above the foot rest of the chairs; often there were only army blankets draped where the legs of the eager lads would have been if they had not lost them in battle.

Arms and legs and even sight might be gone forever, and doubtless there was a great homesick lesion in the hearts of the boys from the East, West, North and South who were seated at the tables, but if they were unhappy before starting to the feed they had no place for gloom once they had reached the Bowman "party."

"Listen, chaplain," called a doughboy who had been wounded in the leg and carried his right arm in a sling and therefore was among the wheel chair guests, all of whom were placed along the north windows of the "Cascades" with trays on their laps and many nurses helping them with their chow—"Listen, Chaplain Ogilby, me having a bum right wing, will you see to it that if they got chicken on the bill of fare that I get the left leg, because with my right arm in a sling left legs is all I can handle."

But Bowman Knew His Guests.

There was happiness over the quip. And there was more merriment when, after Chef Loole Seres and Jean Mainati had worked the guests through juicy clams, cream of celery soup, bushels of celery and olives, roast turkey and trimmin's, a young voice was heard to observe raucously, "Bowman held the peas out on us because he was afraid they'd roll off our knives on his floor, so he gives us string beans. Can you beat that guy"

He knew his guests, did John McE., so he saw to it that culinary frills gave way to bulk and substantiality. Instead of pretty but vacuous little slivers of bread John McE. had the tables groaning under plates of slices cut about an inch thick and with none of the crust trimmed off. There was no such thing as a demi-tasse to be seen, but there were about 1,000 coffee cups of the man size on the tables. The turkey didn't come in wearing frills, but was piled in pyramids on plates below stairs and shot up to the diners, a platterful for each soldier. And no dainty French pastry accompanied the buckets of coffee; instead came alleged dessert plates the size of a harvest moon, half the dinner plate being heaped with varicolord ice cream and the other half with a mound of strawberry shortcake.

Outside of that young Mr. Bowman literally starved his guests to death. Perhaps various doctors at the hospital around midnight were cussing John McE. Bowman's generosity as the doctors passed from cot to cot dispensing indigestion tablets necessitated by overeating or stuffing. But whatever the midnight or morning after views of the doctors were about the Bowman party, the composite opinion of the wounded boys was put concretely by a lad from Oklahoma, who remarked as the legion began to hobble toward the elevators for the homeward trip:

"I gotta git me the name of this here hotel, because this is where I'm going to stay at if ever I git me a wife and come to New York on a honeymoon. For this joint sure does set one hell of a swell table."

HOTTEST DAY EVER HERE FOR MAY 29

Temperature Jumps 4 Degrees Above Record.

Spring's fag end manifested yesterday the spryness of an infant, kicking the mercury up the tube to the highly summery temperature of 90, which beats the record for the date by 4 degrees. The altitude was achieved at 5 P. M. The humidity was not high, and that is why it seemed a bit less fervent than it was meteorologically.

Down in the street the plain, democratic thermometers marked from 92 to close to 98, depending on the location and how much sunlight fell on the bulbs. The wind, from the northwest, where it was also warm, was light and did not fan much of the heat away from folks who could afford to sit in the parks or on the porches of their homes facing north or northwest. There have been hotter and less pleasant May days, notably on May 27, 1914, when the official mercury got to 91. It will be warm and clear to-day, the forecasters suspect.

ASSASSIN TO DIE; HIS TALES FALSE

Sansone Sentenced to Chair After Failure to Reveal Hidden Crimes.

A Sicilian who in advance of his conviction of murder chattered mysteriously in the Tombs of information he could give regarding other crimes was sentenced by Judge McIntyre in General Sessions yesterday to die at Sing Sing in the week beginning July 7. He is Antonio Sansone of 1897 Third avenue, and was found guilty of killing Giachino Pinetti of 303 East 106th street on September 26, 1918.

The prisoner insisted that he never killed anybody, but threw out such dark hints of crimes that he knew about that the police and the District Attorney's men had long talks with him. For one thing, he said he could help them to find the murderer of Giuseppe Candello, whose body, bearing sixty-two stab wounds, was found in a barrel in Fifty-fourth street, Brooklyn, on November 9 last. Capt. Coughlin, in charge of the Brooklyn detectives, said yesterday that all of Sansone's tales had been run down and proved false. "He was simply sparring for time and hoping to have his sentence lightened," Capt. Coughlin said, "and finally the Brooklyn District Attorney's office refused to have anything more to do with him."

After killing Pinetti, Sansone fled to the home of Candello, who was a friend of his. It was partly on the testimony of Mrs. Candello that he was convicted. She testified that Sansone told her he had killed Pinetti.

Assistant District Attorneys Brothers and Joyce, who had charge of the prosecution, believe that Sansone was an assassin for hire, but have no positive evidence, except in the Pinetti case. He was arrested nineteen times in Italy before coming to America in 1909. He worked for a while last year as a rigger in a shipyard.

FAKER IMPOSES ON SOLDIERS' PARENTS

Says He Is "Sun" Reporter, but Is Not on This Paper.

An unidentified man, who has been representing himself as a reporter of THE SUN, soliciting photographs of soldiers from their parents and representing to them that their sons' pictures will be published with a biographical sketch in this paper, has no connection whatsoever with THE SUN.

Mrs. M. Drew, 391 Grant avenue, Brooklyn, whose son, George, a corporal in the 122d Engineers, now in France, said that a young man apparently 25 years of age, wearing a mixed salt and pepper suit, called upon her Monday and represented himself as a reporter for THE SUN; that he asked for a picture of her son, George, and said he would cause it to be published in THE SUN, accompanied by a brief biographical sketch. She declined, because he did not produce credentials showing his connection with THE SUN.

The man did not ask for money or the signing of any kind of pledge, carefully omitting the mention of money during the first call. He had not called again yesterday. Mrs. Drew is somewhat puzzled regarding his "game" and refused to treat with him further. Others also have been annoyed by the pseudo reporter of THE SUN.

VAL O'FARRELL IN BANKRUPTCY SUIT

Detective Says He Has Had Run of Hard Luck.

A voluntary petition in bankruptcy was filed in the United States District Court yesterday by Valerian J. O'Farrell, head of the O'Farrell Detective Agency, Inc., 500 Fifth avenue. Liabilities of $19,377 are acknowledged, with no assets except $425 due from two debts and three insurance policies of a face value of $20,000.

The principal creditor is the National Surety Company, which has a claim of $7,844 on a judgment obtained against O'Farrell on May 22 in the Supreme Court. The other creditors listed are: The Val O'Farrell Detective Agency, Inc., $8,407 for money borrowed by O'Farrell in 1917 and 1918; Lee Mayer, $300; Al Powell, tailor, $200, and H. L. Draisin, $2,575 for jewelry purchased in 1918.

The judgment recorded against O'Farrell last week was in an action brought by the National Surety Company to recover on a bail bond executed by the company and in which it was indemnified against loss by O'Farrell. The National Surety Company had to pay the bail bond, which was issued in behalf of a defendant from Connecticut who was charged with the theft of a number of Liberty bonds.

When asked yesterday to what he ascribed his financial difficulties, O'Farrell said that his business was not involved, but that he himself had "been in some hard luck."

"Can't you forget this thing?" O'Farrell asked. "I owe the money as set forth in the petition, but it will all be paid off as soon as possible. The business is all right, but I've had a run of hard luck, and these are all the questions I'm going to answer about it."

Slade & Slade, 200 Broadway, are attorneys for O'Farrell.

NIXON DENIES HE URGES FARE RAISE

Says Impression His Speech in Brooklyn Gave Some Was Wrong.

NO CLASH WITH DELANEY

Latter Seeks to Modify Ashland Place Contract He Thinks Favors B. R. T.

Lewis Nixon, Public Service Commissioner, said yesterday that in speaking before the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday he did not mean to give the impression that he was in favor either of an increase in the 5 cent fare on traction lines or of a curtailment of transfer privileges.

Those who heard him went away firmly convinced that he was much exercised over the financial condition of the transit lines and not only believed that there should be an increase in their income but that possibly some concessions might be made by them to the public. It was gathered that he was working on the problem and might find a solution for it. Those who heard him were the more astonished because of his previous statement, on taking office, that he had no official opinion on the fare proposition and could not have because the Public Service Commission had no legal right at present to interfere.

Just what way he has changed his mind or just what sort of a solution he hopes to bring about is not clear. It was stated definitely yesterday that the controlling members of the Board of Estimate, which alone has the right to bring about an increased fare through a change in the franchise terms, had not receded from the position that they took when they stated that no increase could be granted so long as the companies were not willing to make some concession to the city. It is possible, however, that some remarks of Commissioner Nixon that he hopes to see a solution of the problem are responsible for the reports current in Wall Street that the companies were about to get what they had been asking.

"I want to find out," said Commissioner Nixon in Brooklyn, "if there is not some way that the problem can be worked out to the satisfaction of the investing public and with due regard to the general public. There was a day when every one who drew a contract for transit thought that a five cent fare was a gold mine. But in the face of things as they are one side must give up something and so must the other side. I believe that we should have an adjustment that should be to the satisfaction not only of those who own the securities, but to the general public in the course of a few weeks."

Both Commissioner Nixon and John H. Delaney, the Construction Commissioner who was sworn in yesterday, denied that there was any clash between them on the question of the Ashland place connection between the Fulton Street Elevated Railroad in Brooklyn and the Fourth Avenue subway. Both believe that the connection should be made, but Commissioner Delaney is opposed to the form of contract that was adopted by the former Public Service Commission and has withdrawn it from the Board of Estimate. He believes it favors the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company too much.

"We intend to negotiate a new contract," said the Commissioner, "or rather a new modification of contract No. 4. The modification proposed would permit the B. R. T. to credit to its contribution to the general pool under the main contract the $92,500 it now pays to the city for tolls to cross the Brooklyn Bridge with its trains. In the fifty years that the contract has to run that would mean $5,000,000. This toll money has always been used to help in maintaining the bridge."

A further consideration granted to the B. R. T. for its consent to the Ashland Place connection was permission to build a station for its elevated lines on the Williamsburg Bridge, which is city property. Commissioner Delaney does not believe that the company should be compensated in this indirect manner. He proposes to go to Lindley M. Garrison, receiver of the transit lines, he says, and ask him what the company wants for a modification of the contract.

"If it wants $5,000,000 let it say so," he declared.

Commissioner Delaney acknowledged that he had no way to force the company to enter into the modification without a substantial consideration. If a modification to suit Commissioner Delaney cannot be obtained the contract reverts to its original form, which is to have the Fulton street rapid transit run down to Adams street and down that street to the Brooklyn Bridge. The bridge is not strong enough to carry the five car steel trains that will be used when the elevated is reconstructed, so the line would end at the Brooklyn end of the Brooklyn Bridge, which Mr. Delaney acknowledges would not be satisfactory. Furthermore, passengers on the Fulton street "L" would have to pay a second fare to get up town in Manhattan unless the line was diverted into the Fourth avenue subway.

Commissioner Delaney passed a good part of yesterday in conference with James B. Walker, the secretary of the commission, finding out how he cut apart the Siamese twins of regulation and construction work, which were grouped together under the old five-headed Public Service Commission. In the future the staffs will be entirely separate, although they will be working together under the same roof.

SOLDIERS IN JOBS HIT OLD STRIDES

Bureau Makes Report on Reemployment.

Major Warren Bigelow, director of the Reemployment Bureau, yesterday summed up the work done in getting jobs for discharged service men in the five weeks the bureau has been operating. He said that out of 7,138 referred to positions 2,648 are known to be drawing their pay envelopes and the actual figure is probably much higher owing to the failure of many of the men to report back to the bureau. Included in the placements were several $4,000 and $5,000 a year jobs for expert managers, purchasing agents, superintendents and similar positions.

The classification of jobs obtained shows 398 office clerks, 242 shipping and stock clerks, 230 chauffeurs, 191 salesmen, 136 bookkeepers, 123 stenographers, 121 watchmen, 53 electricians and 265 unskilled laborers.

The bureau now has 3,778 applications on file which should be placed at once and makes a special appeal to employers to take note of the situation. Among the men in dire need of work are civil engineers, chemists, building constructors, office managers, salesmen, doctors, cashiers and accountants, stenographers, truck drivers, pipe fitters and unskilled workers of all types. The most difficult problem, Major Bigelow said, is to obtain work for the increasingly large number of unskilled workers.

$20,000,000 LOAN TO B. R. T. APPROVED

Federal Judge Mayer Authorizes Receivers' Certificates as Prior Lien.

MORTGAGEES OVERRULED

Status of the Company as Operator of Public Utilities Not Passed Upon.

Federal Judge Mayer signed a decree yesterday authorizing Lindley M. Garrison, as receiver for the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company and its subsidiaries, to issue receiver's certificates in a sum not to exceed $20,000,000. The certificates will constitute a first lien against surplus income and assets and will subordinate existing mortgage liens of the B. R. T. and its principal subsidiaries except the underlying mortgages of the Kings County Elevated Railroad Company and the Brooklyn Union Elevated Railroad Company.

Objection was raised to making the certificates a paramount lien by persons interested in the so-called first refunding mortgage of the B. R. T., which becomes subordinate. Henry V. Poor, counsel for the Central Union Trust Company, the trustee, argued that the mortgage could not be subordinated because the B. R. T. is a private business corporation not subject to the law that permits first lien receiver's certificates against public utility companies so that they may be kept in operation in the public interest.

In a memorandum accompanying the decree Judge Mayer did not specifically pass upon the status of the B. R. T. as a public utility or a private business corporation, but his findings, in the opinion of lawyers, went far to support the contention that the company comes within the legal definition of a public utility company. The point is of importance because the B. R. T., like other holding companies, has been operated without supervision by the Public Service Commission.

Two Objections Disposed Of.

"The subject matter of the decree was recently fully discussed at a hearing at which those interested presented their respective views," said Judge Mayer. "The proposed decree discussed at the hearing has been revised in some matters of detail, with the result that apparently there are remaining but two objections, as a matter of law, to the decree.

"In the first place the committee of tort creditors (accident claimants) urges that provision should be made for the application of so much of the proceeds from the receiver's certificates as shall be necessary to pay tort claims accruing prior to the receivership. In view of settled and controlling authority in this circuit this court would not have power to direct that the proceeds of these receiver's certificates should be so applied.

"Secondly, it is, in my opinion, as necessary for the ultimate benefit of the tort creditors as for other interests that the receivership property should be preserved, for by that means it is hoped that a situation will be ultimately created for the appropriate recognition of all classes of creditors. The importance and desirability of providing for the tort creditors has not been lost sight of by the court, but the existent financial situation requires, in the first instance, steps necessary to preserve the property.

"The sole objection in respect of the subordinate provisions of the decree is to that part of the decree which subjects to the lien of the receiver's certificates the so-called first refunding gold mortgage of the B. R. T., dated July 1, 1902, of which the Central Union Trust Company of New York is trustee. Under this mortgage $27,621,000 face value of bonds were authenticated.

Makes Early Appeal Possible.

"The noteholders, who hold $10,000,000 of these bonds inter alia as security, do not object to the subordination of the mortgage. The objections proceed from the trustee and from banks who hold these bonds as collateral security for bank loans antedating the receivership. The contention of the objectors have been studied and carefully considered by me and on the argument the question of the right to subordinate this mortgage was seriously debated. Consideration of reported cases and of the paramount importance of the doctrine of preservation, which I think here controls, leads me to the conclusion that the court has power to make the decree herewith filed.

"The decree is signed at this time with this memorandum in order to expedite an appeal, if such be taken, in view of the fact that the situation demands an early determination of the scope of the receiver's certificates."

The receiver is authorized to issue the certificates at such times as he deems best. Their term is to be from one to three years and the interest is to be 6 per cent. They were made paramount liens so as to insure a market.

Of the total issue authorized $4,000,000 will go to the B. R. T., the holding company, and $16,000,000 to the New York Municipal Railway Corporation and the New York Consolidated Railroad Company, subsidiaries. It is necessary for the holding company to finance the subsidiaries' requirements in order to carry out the dual subway contract.

LOST-LOVE SUIT OVER SHADOW LAWN RAID

Mrs. Oppenheim Asks $150,000 From Mrs. Kridel.

Mrs. Jennie M. Oppenheim, former mistress of Shadow Lawn, the mansion at Long Beach, N. J., which President Wilson used as a summer home in 1915, will present to a jury in Supreme Court the evidence upon which she bases her suit to recover $150,000 from Mrs. Martha Wallach Kridel for alienation of the affections of her husband, Myron H. Oppenheim, capitalist, financier and former practising attorney.

Mrs. Oppenheim, through her attorneys, withdrew yesterday the motion made recently to have the action transferred from the trial term to the special term of the court, where it would be heard by a Justice alone. Justice Tierney granted the application.

Withdrawal of the motion was probably due to the sensational evidence introduced before Justice Greenbaum a week ago in Mrs. Oppenheim's action for a divorce. Although Oppenheim was in court he did not defend the suit. Mrs. Kridel, the widow and heiress of the fortune left by her husband, Abraham M. Kridel, silk importer and manufacturer, was represented by counsel during the hearing.

Detectives employed by Mrs. Oppenheim related the details of the raid they made upon Oppenheim's home after following "a strange and beautiful woman" there. On making forcible entry to Oppenheim's apartments, they said, they found Mrs. Kridel, clad in silken negligee, hidden in a closet. She became hysterical when the door was forced by the detectives and two brothers of Mrs. Oppenheim, it was stated.

Mrs. Oppenheim lives at the Hotel Netherland and Mrs. Kridel live sat 34 West Ninety-first street. Justice Greenbaum reserved his decision in the divorce action.

PATERSON SPLITS ON HAMBURGH AVE.

One Faction Would Rename Street for War Victim.

The residents of Paterson, N. J., seem divided on the question of changing the name of Hamburgh avenue to Pellington avenue in honor of Ray Pellington, the first Patersonion to be killed in France, who died fighting with the marines at Chateau Thierry. As a result there is a merry war on, with the Board of Public Works the storm centre.

Several months ago, when the change from Teutonic to American was suggested, the members of the board passed a resolution on two readings to rename the thoroughfare Pellington avenue, but Commissioner Robert G. Hughes, president, thought the question should be investigated.

Since then the Paterson High School Alumni Association and Student Council, numbering 3,000 members; the Jr. O. U. A. M., John McCutcheon League and other organizations have sent communications to the board recommending that it confirm its action.

Commissioner Peter Quackenbush, discussing the matter, said yesterday:

"The Board of Works has had the change of name under consideration for a long time and we have viewed it from many angles. The Hamburgh Turnpike, of which Hamburgh avenue in Paterson is a part, is a very long thoroughfare, running from the Hudson River to the Delaware River. Therefore, changing the name in Paterson is not the only consideration. We have taken the matter up with the authorities of Sussex county, and they have declared flatfooted that they would not change the name in their jurisdiction. They have declared in a letter from County Clerk John J. Stanton that the name 'Hamburgh' is of Dutch origin and not German."

MRS. MELLEN DROPS HER DIVORCE SUIT

Former New Haven President Settles Substantial Sum on Wife.

PITTSFIELD, Mass., May 29.—Charles E. Mellen, former president of the New Haven Railroad, has settled the litigation between himself and his wife, Mrs. Katherine Livingston Mellen of New York, from whom he secured a separation some time ago.

Mrs. Mellen's suit for divorce will be dropped and it is understood that Mr. Mellen has settled on his wife a sum of money that is altogether satisfactory to her.

Mr. Mellen won a separation on the ground that his wife had deserted him and that he was justified in living apart from her. The suit was brought in the Berkshire Probate Court in September, 1918, and some of the testimony aroused much interest. A number of letters addressed by Mrs. Mellen to "Dear Douglas," H. Douglas Brown, who at that time was assistant manager of the Vanderbilt Hotel in New York, were offered in evidence.

The letters showed that Mrs. Mellen had appealed to "Diamond Jim" Brady to have Thomas Hilliard removed as manager so that Brown might be promoted to his place and also that Mrs. Mellen was jealous of a well known musical comedy star and "a blonde from San Francisco." She also asked Brown to buy a diamond ring for her so that she might have some kind of a gift from him.

Mrs. Mellen did not contest the suit for separation, but started proceedings in Pittsfield for divorce and it was intimated that the testimony in the case would be even more interesting than in the separation suit.

MAN IS KILLED IN DUEL IN BROOKLYN

His Opponent, Union Agent, Likely to Die.

Thomas Slattery, 422 Sixty-first street, and Herbert Hansen, 466 Forty-eighth street, both of Brooklyn, began firing revolvers at each other early yesterday morning after an altercation at Fifth avenue and Fifty-fourth street, Brooklyn. Hansen was killed by bullets through his heart and abdomen and Slattery was shot in the abdomen and seriously wounded. It was said at the Army Post Hospital, formerly the Norwegian Hospital, where he was taken, he probably would die.

Slattery was business agent for the Iron Workers Union, and both he and Hansen were boss truckmen. According to the police, Hansen and another man were standing on the corner, when Slattery drove up in his automobile.

"Come on and have a dish of chop suey," invited Hansen.

Slattery refused, probably on account of the fact that he and Hansen had had an altercation at Coney Island some time ago and Hansen is reported by the police to have said:

"You are a big bully and you have got everybody around here scared, but I'm not afraid of you."

Both men then drew revolvers and began shooting.

$30,000 WILLIAMSBURG FIRE.

Crowds Line Bridge to Watch Factory Burn.

George Ducker, 445 Kent avenue, Brooklyn, was on his way home last night about 9 o'clock when he noticed that the second floor of the three story brick factory building at 432 Kent avenue, near the Brooklyn approach to the Williamsburg Bridge, was ablaze. Ducker called to a fireman who was on a passing crosstown street car, and the fireman turned in an alarm.

By the time the fire apparatus reached the building the fire had mushroomed through it to the upper and lower stories and two more alarms were turned in. The building was near the old Roosevelt Street Ferry slip and for a time it was feared that the flames would spread to the ferry structure. The fire was finally got under control, but not until the factory building had been ruined. The structures were occupied by the Triangle Shoe Company, the Borough Cabinet Company and the Wolsoon Machine Company. The loss was estimated at $30,000.

The fire made a tremendous volume of smoke and lighted up the entire river front in the Williamsburg district. Several thousand persons watched the flames from the bridge.

FIVE LAUNCHINGS TO-DAY.

Hog Island Raises Its Total to 34 Completed Hulls.

Five steel 7,800 ton cargo carriers will be launched to-day at the big Hog Island shipyard near Philadelphia, the American International Corporation announced yesterday. These vessels will be named the Lehigh, the Maiden Creek, the Pipestone County, the Nedmac and the Shavano. The launchings will begin at 1:30 P. M. from way No. 43 and will follow at intervals of twenty minutes from ways Nos. 33, 28, 16 and 1 respectively. The yard will be thrown open to the public at 9:30 A. M.

The launchings to-day will bring the total number of ships launched at the yard so far to thirty-four.

'BUILDERS SCARED BY RENT AGITATION'

Landlord at Inquiry Says General Protest Is to Blame for House Shortage.

CAN'T SEE PROFITEERING

Bronx Man Tells of How His Apartment Now Is $57 When Once It Was $30.

Although one apartment house tenant testified yesterday in Bronx Borough Hall before the Lockwood legislative committee, which is investigating housing conditions here, that his rent had been raised nearly 100 per cent. since November, 1917, Jacob Leitner, who owns forty apartment houses there and is agent for 100 others, asserted that charges of profiteering were unjust.

George Dosher, who lives at 2405 Grand avenue, said he had paid $30 a month for his six room apartment up to a year ago last November, when his rent was jumped $2. October 1, 1918, he was required to sign a lease for $39, he testified. The agent of the building notified him last June that, beginning October 1 next, his rent would be raised $18, making $57 monthly. Nothing has been done for the betterment of the building, according to Mr. Dosher, who said that although he had at first been charged nothing for his telephone extension he now had to give 50 cents a month for it.

The Chemical Realty Company is lessee of the building, the witness testified. Chairman Lockwood announced that, although the company had been asked to send a representative to the hearing, no one had appeared. "So we will compel them to appear under subpoena at the next meeting," he added.

Mr. Leitner of 435 West 119th street, who said he had been in the real estate business in The Bronx for twenty-seven years, figures the present cost of building at 60 per cent. more than before 1914.

Tells of Changed Conditions.

"The trouble with this rental proposition," said he, "is that at one time we had three apartments for one tenant. Later we had two apartments for each tenant and then one. Now we have two tenants for each apartment."

Mr. Leitner declared that "almost all" the increases in rents had been justified.

"There were some unjustifiable increases?" asked Senator Lockwood.

"No. I say this: The raises in every instance were justified, but in some of them they exceeded the justification. Is that making it clear? They all had to be raised."

Asked if he thought the agitation against high rentals was justified, Mr. Leitner said:

"No. It might have been if the specific cases could have been taken up, but by going around and shouting all over the city and saying every landlord is a profiteer, and this and that—it is that which affects the market."

"Now Mr. Leitner, is it not a fact that lack of building is due, not really to the agitation, but because real estate men have been holding back because of the increased taxes and cost of building?" Senator Lockwood asked.

"No. The agitation as to rent has as much to do with it as the cost of building."

At present, the witness asserted, apartments renting for $8 a month would have to bring $12 if the venture were to be profitable. He doubted, he said, if he was realizing four per cent. upon his investments. Mr. Leitner agreed to show his books to the committee. He testified that he thought ten per cent. would be a fair return.

"We are not figuring on what the traffic will bear," the witness protested. "We are trying to get a fair, legitimate return on the money invested and I believe that is the sentiment of every real estate owner. People are going to janitors to-day and saying, 'If you can give me an apartment in this house I will give you $20.' Now we are not taking advantage of that situation and will not. People are willing to give $50 for four rooms, but we rent to-day for $35."

J. Clarence Davies, a real estate operator, thought that the best method of remedying present conditions was to have building conducted by "strong corporations which will build on more than a shoestring." He said that he was against either the State or city entering the building field, but that the "crux of the situation" was to have the Federal Government aid builders by making loans on advantageous terms. Municipal Court Judges, he thought, were "inclined" to favor the tenant more than the landlord.

The reason for funds not flowing more freely into the mortgage money markets, according to Dr. C. Albert Becker, president of the Bronx Borough Bank, is because investors "can buy railroad bonds and other securities and get a larger income with less trouble." He declared that he was against the proposition to exempt from taxation the income on mortgages up to $40,000.

The committee will meet again to-day at 10 o'clock.

Technicality Is a Help to Tenants.

Justice Robitzek in the Bronx Municipal District Court dismissed yesterday the dispossess proceedings against Harry Vieling and thirteen other tenants of the house at 2078 Arthur avenue, ruling that he had no jurisdiction, as the ownership of the property was a question involved in the proceedings. The tenants have refused since May 1 to pay the increased rentals demanded.

It was announced by Nathan Hirsch, chairman of the Mayor's Committee on Rent Profiteering, that a survey of vacant apartments in the city, made by the Police Department, disclosed that only 8,596 of the 982,744 listed were tenantless.

Attorney-General Newton suggested that the charters of real estate leasing corporations be revoked upon conviction of profiteering. He blamed the speculative tendencies of some of these agencies for much of the present trouble, adding that many concerns had not filed reports, as required by law.

A patrolman had to be called to the office of the Mayor's Committee on Rent Profiteering in the Municipal Building yesterday because Joseph Polstein, president of the Hennessy Realty Company at 20 Broadway, became excited when Walter S. Kennedy, Assistant Corporation Counsel, attempted to question him regarding complaints of an undue raise in rentals made by a committee of tenants. One tenant asserted he had been raised $205 in a year. Mr. Polstein denied Mr. Kennedy's right to question him. It was announced that the real estate man would be subpœnaed to appear before David Hirshfield, Commissioner of Accounts.

Jews to Discuss Palestine.

Jewish religious work and the settlement in Palestine will be discussed at the seventh annual convention of the United Synagogue of America and the Women's League, which will be held June 15 and 16 in the Seminary Building, 531 West 123d street. An entire session will be devoted to the subject of Palestine.

CHARGES AGAINST DR. DOYLE QUASHED

Fire Bureau Chief Freed on Film Indictments.

The three indictments against Dr. William F. Doyle, chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention of the city Fire Department, alleging conspiracy and accepting unlawful fees, were dismissed yesterday by Judge Otto A. Rosalsky in General Sessions. The dismissals were ordered on the motion of Abraham Levy, counsel for Dr. Doyle.

The indictments, together with others, found against Frank McGinnis, his aid; Leon Wallace, a manager of Healy's resturant, and Frank McGoey of Far Rockaway, resulted from an investigation demanded last March by Fire Commissioner Thomas J. Drennan into graft said to have been obtained through a moving picture film exchange known as the Columbia Film Company. It was alleged that this concern was a fake and that it was used as the medium through which moving picture theatre proprietors paid over graft on promises of certain favors.

Judge Rosalsky also dismissed the conspiracy indictments against Capt. McGinnis and Frank McGoey, but he sustained another indictment against these two charging violation of section 1826 of the Penal Law.

In dismissing the indictments against Dr. Doyle Judge Rosalsky held that there was no corroborative evidence, the indictments being based solely on the testimony of alleged accomplices.

NEW PARENTS FIGHT FOR ASH CAN WAIF

Fineblooms Offer Trust Fund for Child.

Some of the mystery in connection with Bobby Ash, the baby who was so named for identification by the Children's Aid Society last January when he found in an ash can scantily clad and blue with the cold, has been cleared up, but the solving of the mystery of the baby's parentage has led to legal complications.

The baby, now strong and healthy in appearance and dressed in simple clothes of the best quality, was in Justice Whitaker's part of the Supreme Court yesterday on a writ of habeas corpus sued out by the Children's Aid Society, which seeks to regain the custody of the child. Mr. and Mrs. John Finebloom of 78 West Eighty-second street, who obtained the baby some time ago with the intention of adopting him, are determined to fight the effort being made to deprive them of Bobby.

It was explained to the court that since the Children's Aid Society has learned who the parents of the baby are and also has ascertained that they are Christians, efforts have been made to have the child returned to the home. Daniel W. Blumenthal, attorney for the Finebloom, told the court that Mrs. Finebloom is a Christian and like her husband, a member of the Christian Science Church.

According to the foster parents they are willing to place $5,000 in a bank in trust for the child, and to add $5,000 a year for each of the next three years. Justice Whitaker adjourned the arguments on the case until next Monday morning.

COOPER UNION GIVES DIPLOMAS TO 236

George W. Wickersham Is Principal Speaker.

The sixtieth annual commencement exercises of Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art were held last night in the big auditorium, when 236 men and women graduates received diplomas and additional prizes, including the Cooper medal. Robert E. Crockett, a graduate of the night course in general science, who served as a Captain with the First Regiment of Engineers, First Division, in France, delivered the valedictory address.

The School of Science graduated 136 pupils, the Night School of Art 83, the Woman's Art School 9 pupils and the Stenography School 16. George W. Wickersham delivered the principal address of the evening and Prof. C. R. Richards, director, presided. R. Fulton Cutting, president, was obliged to leave the exercises on account of the illness of Mrs. Cutting.

About 3,000 relatives and friends of the graduates were present, and nearly fifty former students received post-graduate degrees. On the platform with Prof. Richards was gathered the trustees of the institution, including Edward R. Hewitt, Peter Cooper Bryce and J. P. Morgan.

BURNED NEGRO TO DEATH.

Bartender Convicted—Faces 20 Years Imprisonment.

Charged with having caused the death last September of William Jones, a negro janitor at 313 West 116th street, Patrick Kennedy, a bartender, formerly employed in a saloon at Eighth avenue and 117th street, was found guilty yesterday of manslaughter in the first degree before Justice Vernon M. Davis in the Criminal branch of the Supreme Court.

Evidence showed that the crime grew out of racial prejudice. According to several witnesses, Jones, who was a frequent visitor at the saloon where Kennedy dispensed drinks, had incurred the enmity of the defendant, who, it was charged, deliberately poured a glass of gasolene over the negro's clothing on September 7 and lighting a match to him burned him so badly that he died two weeks later in the Knickerbocker Hospital.

Kennedy will be sentenced next Wednesday. He faces a possible term of twenty years imprisonment.

WEDS ON A HOSPITAL SHIP.

Pharmacist's Mate Keeps Vow to Marry He Made at Dance.

Horace M. Folsom of Minneapolis, a stalwart young pharmacist's mate in the American Navy, went to the St. Nicholas Skating Rink about six months ago, and was fortunate enough to see Miss Mary Valis of 1297 First avenue dancing there. About two minutes later Folsom registered this vow:

"I'm going to marry that girl!"

And he did, yesterday. On board the hospital ship Mercy, which is the vessel on which the sailor is stationed, the ceremony was performed by Lieut. Frank E. Moyer, cahplain of the ship, underneath a flag canopy and in the presence of most of the ship's company. Officers and crew of the vessel gave the young couple a wedding present, a case of fine table silver and a slender silver flower basket. Last night Folsom and his bride left for Washington on their honeymoon, the sailor having obtained a five day furlough.

Police to Honor Their Dead.

The annual memorial service for members of the Police Department will be held in St. Patrick's Cathedral at 4:30 P. M. Sunday, with special music by the Police Department Glee Club. The Rev. Mgr. Michael Lavelle and the Rev. John J. Coogan, police chaplain, will speak. The members of the department will parade from the East Fifty-first street police station to the cathedral, led by the police band.

HEIR TO $2,000,000, H. L. ENO IS BROKE

Famous Educator's Fortune Tied Up in Will Litigation, He Asks $50,000.

ODD TANGLES IN SUIT

Forced to Surrender All His Property in Order to Pay Interest on Notes.

Henry Lane Eno, educator of national reputation and research associate of the educational staff of Princeton, describes in affidavits submitted yesterday to Surrogate Cohalan the strange trick fate has played upon him, making it necessary for him to petition the court for an order directing the administrators of his uncle's estate to pay him $50,000, as he finds himself, in his own language, "without means while nominal heir to approximately $2,000,000."

Eno, in his petition, states he is the eldest and only surviving son of Henry Clay Eno and a nephew of Amos F. Eno, who died in October, 1915, leaving an estate of about $10,000,000. Shortly after the death of Amos F. Eno a will dated June 18, 1915, in which $50,000 was bequeathed to the petitioner and $1,250,000 to each of his two children, Alice, aged 16, and Amos, aged 10, was offered for probate.

Probation of this will was contested by Eno on the ground that a previous will existed in which one-fifth of the estate was bequeathed to him. Eno alleges his uncle was incompetent at the time the will filed was executed, while he was competent when he made out the other.

Jury Sustains Him.

The action was tried before Surrogate Cohalan and a jury in 1915 and Eno's contention was sustained. An appeal against this finding was taken and it is now pending before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Recently the previous will which Eno contended existed was discovered. This was offered for probate, but Eno states