

SOCIALIST RECORDS REPORTED STOLEN

Papers in District of Suspended Assemblyman Claessens Strangely Disappear.

HOUSEBREAKING CHARGED

Hillquit Says Legislative Committee Is Seeking to Cloud the Issue.

The ransacking of the Seventeenth Assembly district Socialist headquarters and the theft of roll books, correspondence and other documents was reported to the police last night by Karl E. Gottfried, the Socialist secretary.

Gottfried told the police he was inclined to believe the theft was the work of some one in sympathy with the Lusk Committee, particularly in view of the fact that Assemblyman August Claessens of the Seventeenth district is one of the five suspended Socialist members who will face trial before the Assembly Judiciary Committee in Albany tomorrow.

He told the police there was nothing to indicate that there had been a raid by the authorities or, on the other hand, to indicate that the thief was looking for anything but Socialist documents. The invader apparently entered by breaking a lock on a basement door. He then virtually wrecked Gottfried's desk and broke open a closet in the back of Gottfried's office which also contained papers.

Gottfried could not state last night what papers were stolen, but said he was sure there was nothing in his office which could harm the case of the Assemblymen. He did not know whether anything was missing which might have aided the Assemblymen.

Counsel for the suspended Socialist members of the Assembly expect Attorney-General Newton and his associates to undertake to "becloud" the issue by "dragging in" Bolshevism and Soviet activities, I. W. W. strikes and other "irrelevant" matter at the hearing which begins tomorrow.

In view of that anticipation, Morris Hillquit, chief counsel for the suspended members, stated yesterday that he and his associates will fight vigorously every effort to depart from what the Socialists define as the only issue. That issue Hillquit summed up in the following words:

"Whether the representatives of one political party have the right to outlaw the representatives of a rival party upon the charge that the political creed of the latter is opposed to the best interests of the country. In other words, whether a political party in power has the constitutional right to impose its own views and policies upon other parties, thus stifling minority opposition and perpetuating itself in government."

The prominent attorneys who will represent the various interests involved at the hearing of the charges against

the Socialist members began heading for Albany yesterday.

Attorney-General Newton and Speaker Sweet, who spent the week end in New York working out the preliminary details of the State's case, returned to the State capital yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Hillquit and his associates will go there to-day, as also will Charles E. Hughes and the other members of the Bar Association committee who have been delegated by the association to represent the public.

Numerous protests to the action of the Assembly were added yesterday to those that already have been voiced.

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, addressing the Free Synagogue in Carnegie Hall, said the issue to be decided in Albany is not the right to be a Socialist, but the right to think, and particularly the right to think differently from the way in which the majority thinks. That, he said, involves certain principles of American democracy the reputation of which "is and ought to be death to the republic."

The Teachers Union of New York city adopted resolutions calling upon the Assembly to "right the wrong" done in denying the Socialist members their seats.

Lewis Nixon, Public Service Commissioner, however, took a more complacent view of the situation and said "the matter of the treatment of the Socialists is not one for Americans to get hysterical about." "Even if hasty," he continued, "the matter will be adjusted in the full light of publicity and with every right of these men conserved. Without going into the merits of the case I may say that the best motto in the United States to-day is formed by the title of the old song, 'Rally Round the Flag,' and, further, be sure it is the American flag."

EX-SOLDIERS AS HONOR GUARD

New Jersey Posts Turn Out for Governor's Inauguration.

The New Jersey posts of the United American War Veterans will act as guard of honor at the inauguration, of Edward I. Edwards as Governor of New Jersey tomorrow, and the band of the organization, formerly the band of the 113th Infantry, will head the inaugural parade.

At that time the Governor will present a medal of honor to Louis M. Van Lersel of Passaic, department quartermaster of the veterans, who is one of the most decorated soldiers of the A. E. F.

Eisner's Slayer Gets Life Term.

Hans, Jan. 18.—The sentence of death pronounced Friday upon Count Arco Valley for the assassination of Kurt Eisner, the Bavarian Premier, at Munich in February, 1919, has been commuted to life imprisonment, according to advices received to-day. The commutation of the sentence was ordered by unanimous vote of the Bavarian Cabinet.

Up-States Suffer From Blizzard.

STRAUSER, Jan. 18.—The severest blizzard in years has prevailed in central and northern New York during the last forty-eight hours, demoralizing railway and trolley traffic, blocking country roads with huge drifts and causing much suffering. To-night the storm showed no indication of abatement.

Hotel Burns at Chester, Vt.

CHESTER, Vt., Jan. 18.—The Hotel Pullerton, a four story wooden building, which also housed a bank, a motion picture theatre and the post office, was burned early to-day.

CONFERENCE HELD ON SOCIALIST CASE

Outline of Evidence Mapped at Meeting of Sweet With Attorneys.

NO STATEMENT ISSUED

Stanchfield and Littleton Will Have Another Associate Lawyer.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

ALBANY, Jan. 18.—An outline of the evidence to be produced against the five suspended Socialists of the Assembly, whose hearing begins at 11 o'clock Tuesday morning before the Assembly Judiciary Committee, was mapped to-night at a conference of the chief figures on the side opposing the Socialists. Nothing was given out, but it was reported that a statement would be prepared for the public and issued on the eve of the hearing.

Those at the conference were Speaker Thaddeus C. Sweet of the Assembly, who brought the action against the Socialists; John B. Stanchfield and Martin W. Littleton, and Attorney-General Charles D. Newton, who engaged Stanchfield and Littleton as special counsel to aid in presenting evidence; Senator Clayton R. Lusk, chairman of the Legislative committee investigating Bolshevism, which unearthed much of the evidence to be used in the case; Archibald Stevenson, special agent of the Lusk Committee, and Louis M. Martin chairman of the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

It is pretty generally understood that the Judiciary Committee is going to make a real investigation to determine the Americanism of the five Socialists and not just sit back and listen to whatever evidence the Attorney-General wants to present. By the terms of the Assembly resolution directing the action the Judiciary Committee must inquire fully into every phase of the situation to see whether the suspended Assemblymen have done anything or been in favor of anything that makes them ineligible for membership in the State's law making body.

By to-morrow it is expected that a third assistant will be named by Attorney-General Newton. He will be an up-State man and a Republican. Mr. Stanchfield and Mr. Littleton are Democrats and, strange to say, were on opposing sides during the last big proceeding that tangled up the legislative machinery, Gov. Sulzer's impeachment trial. Mr. Stanchfield was attorney for the Assembly board of managers directing the impeachment case and Mr. Littleton was one of counsel for Sulzer.

Mr. Littleton said to-night that he had agreed to take part in the case if the Assembly with the understanding that if the Newberry-Ford controversy

over the United States Senatorship from Michigan should be put down for trial before the Socialist case ends he will have to leave this case, for he is counsel to Senator Newberry.

It is probable that another fight over the Socialists will be staged in the Assembly to-morrow night when Assemblyman William C. Amos will make a new effort to get a resolution passed re-annulling the Socialists. Such an effort failed last week by a vote of 71 to 33.

Speaker Sweet said to-night he thought there would not be any delay in getting the investigation started Tuesday, but in other quarters to-night there was a suggestion that arguments which may be made by the Hughes committee of New York Bar Association regarding the constitutionality of the Assembly's action may cause a delay. It is also thought that counsel for the Socialists will make arguments to show that the action of the Assembly was unconstitutional, but some people predict that in this case Chairman Martin will be prepared to rule that the Assembly itself has decided its action was constitutional, by refusing to reseat the five men, and that therefore the investigation should go on without delay.

Speaker Sweet is anxious to get the Socialist matter disposed of so that the Legislature can buckle down to work.

COPELAND APPROVES LOOP.

Favors Plan Intended to Relieve Shuttle Congestion.

Dr. Royal S. Copeland, Health Commissioner, gave hearty endorsement yesterday to his proposed subway loop around the theatrical, shopping, hotel and railroad districts of the city as a means of safeguarding the public health. He said that under present arrangements he is much concerned over the shuttle problem.

"As I understand the loop proposition," he said, "it offers a solution of the loop problem and therefore in the interest of the public health I am very much in favor of it. In fact I am in favor of any plan that will reduce crowding in the subways. The present congested condition is a matter of great concern to the Health Commissioner in times of epidemic."

Rent Rebates for Lack of Coal.

BERLIN, Dec. 30.—Rent payers of Berlin who are unable to obtain heat or light owing to the shortage of coal will receive a rebate of that proportion of their rent which ordinarily would pay for these comforts. A Berlin Ministry has appointed a commission to determine the sum which shall be credited to the rent payers.

Salem Bars Motor Buses.

SALER, Mass., Jan. 18.—Motor buses that have been competing with street railway traffic again disappeared from the streets when Deputy Chief George C. Neale of the State police served notice to-day that arrests would follow their further operation.

Railroad Y. M. C. A. Burns.

BOSTON, Jan. 18.—Fire of undetermined origin to-day destroyed the Railroad Men's Y. M. C. A. building and a freight house in the Boston and Maine Railroad yards.

Mrs. Schumann-Heink Ill.

SAN DIEGO, CAL., Jan. 18.—Mrs. Schumann-Heink is ill with pneumonia at her home at Grossmont, a suburb. Her condition was said not to be serious.

SOVIET MAKES U. S. PRISON LIFE A JOY

Booze, Prize Fights and Drugs a Few of Leavenworth's Advantages.

INVESTIGATION IS BEGUN

Former Prisoners Tell of Astonishing Situation After Court Acts.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 18.—The manufacturing of booze in the chapel, the staging of prize fights at any time, the purchasing of narcotics whenever desired and days replete with drunken orgies—these were only a few of the many privileges enjoyed by prisoners at the disciplinary barracks at Leavenworth under the soviet regime, according to prisoners now under the protection of Judge John C. Pollock of the Federal Court, following his order for an investigation of the conditions of the military prison under the soviet administration.

The investigation is under Fred M. Tate of the Secret Service Department, Oscar Schmitz of the Department of Justice, Francis D. Hazma of the Military Intelligence Department and Fred Robertson, District Attorney. The men being questioned are pre-prisoners and ex-prisoners who were acquitted on a charge of conspiracy in the Federal Court yesterday.

The prisoners display no timidity in discussing the conditions. Two of the men, who were prisoners at the time of their arrest for conspiracy, said they were placed in "solitary confinement" after their arrests. Excellent meals were served; spacious beds were provided for them; every courtesy was afforded, and when time came to face trial in the civil courts they were instructed to keep their "lips tight." The vengeance of the soviet committee had manifested itself in several instances, when the slugging committee had worked overtime and the men made it a practice to permit the showing of films approved by the National Board of Review, but all films which the board has rejected must be shown to any Syracuse Theatre. The investigating committee visited New York city last week and were shown all phases of the motion picture industry, watched the National Board of Review at work and attended a meeting at which the board

WETS AND DRY LINE UP AT STATE HOUSE

Present Week May Witness Manoeuvres for Prohibition Enforcement.

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ALBANY, Jan. 16.—The trial of the five suspended Socialist Assemblymen holds the centre of the stage in the State Capitol this week, but still there is considerable interest being manifested in many important legislative matters that are being projected. Prominent among these is prohibition enforcement, with both the wets and the drys active in support of their respective measures. Legislative agents of both sides, formerly referred to as lobbyists, have been at the Capitol every day since the Legislature convened.

Within a few days all the welfare bills sponsored by Gov. Smith last year and another in committee by the Republican majority, will have been reintroduced and the annual fight on them will start. It is generally believed, however, that the Republican leaders, rather than repeat their tactics of a year ago, will formulate a compromise programme which may meet with some measure of success. It is recognized that such a scheme offers the Governor his only hope of getting any of his welfare legislation enacted into law.

It is considered very likely that the Legislature will enact legislation affecting the motion picture industry to a greater degree than ever before has been attempted. The movies are now being made the subject of an exhaustive investigation by a committee of the State Conference of Mayors, to determine whether the conference should recommend further censorship of the film plays. All pictures are now censored by the National Board of Review, but there are only a few cities where municipal censorship is also required.

One of these cities is Syracuse, where the Commissioner of Public Safety determines what pictures may be exhibited and what may be suppressed. He has made it a practice to permit the showing of films approved by the National Board of Review, but all films which the board has rejected must be shown to any Syracuse Theatre. The investigating committee visited New York city last week and were shown all phases of the motion picture industry, watched the National Board of Review at work and attended a meeting at which the board

of appeal of the national board passed final judgment on the pictures submitted to it for approval.

If the Mayor's conference should recommend a State censorship law it would be fought vigorously by motion picture producers and exhibitors. For several years agents of the industry have been active at the Capitol opposing censorship and the proposed State tax on box office receipts and advocating legislation to permit motion pictures on Sundays. They won a partial victory last year when the Legislature passed a bill providing for local option on the question of Sunday movie shows.

Assemblyman Samuel Dickstein of

Manhattan, a Democrat, has introduced a bill which would make labor and business legal on Sundays for Jews. The measure legalizes Sunday industry, provided public worship is not disturbed, "by persons belonging to a religious faith observing another day of the week as the Sabbath and who refrain from business and labor on such day."

Another Sabbath observance bill has been introduced by Assemblyman Nicholas M. Pette of Queens which would prohibit Sunday football games. A bill which would broaden greatly the divorce laws has been introduced by Assemblyman Oscar J. Smith, Republican, of Manhattan.



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Get one now for the heaps of snow predicted for this winter!

"D" Handle, wood blade steel point folded over the side edge for scraping. Bent hardwood handle protected with galvanized iron shoe. 1.96

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Sidewalk scrapers, 57c and 83c

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