

**BOROUGH AUTONOMY TO BE SAFEGUARDED**

**Charter Revision Commission Will Not Attempt to Centralize Power.**

**YIELD TO NECESSITY**

**Chairman Scott Says Aim Will Be to Frame Acceptable Instrument.**

**LESSONS FROM THE PAST**

**Hope Is to Improve Present Charter and Effect Economies for City.**

That advocates of borough autonomy have little to fear from the charter revision commission, which is to be sworn in by Gov. Miller and will organize at the Hotel Plaza this morning, was indicated last night in an interview by former Justice Francis M. Scott, who is to be chairman. The commission will be organized with former Justice Edward J. McGoldrick, for many years an Assistant Corporation Counsel representing the city before the Legislature, as counsel. Mr. Scott and Mr. McGoldrick are Democrats.

It is not that Justice Scott favors borough autonomy, but because he is looking upon the work of the commission with a practical thought of what may actually be put into effect. "Personally," he said, "I have always regretted the introduction of borough autonomy in the scheme of things at the beginning of the greater city. It prevents a homogeneous community. But, I have been told by people in a position to know, the feeling for borough autonomy is so strong it would probably result in the defeat of any bill that did away with it. You see, we have got to deal with the situation as it exists. We have not got a homogeneous city, but it can't be helped now.

"We hope to draw a better charter than the present one and to economize in places. But we hope to frame one that will pass the Legislature. That is pretty important."

**Special Charter Session.**

The Governor's idea of a special session of the Legislature to consider nothing except the charter Mr. Scott believes a most excellent one. Better results are likely. Gov. Miller will probably tell the members of the commission this morning that they will be absolutely free agents to work out the salvation of the city.

"He said to me," declared Mr. Scott, "that he had no ideas, plans nor schemes for the revision of the charter; the matter would be left entirely in our hands and to our judgment."

Mr. Scott anticipates no trouble from Mayor Hylan. Replying to a question on that score he said:

"In understanding the Mayor is going to start in to help, and I would not be surprised if he would bring in a charter corporation Counsel O'Brien, in Albany the other day, assured me we could call upon him for every assistance possible."

The commission will not confine itself to New York city, but is working for ideas.

"There has been a great deal of interest in charter framing in the West in recent years," he observed, "and we may get some valuable suggestions by going abroad. Cleveland, I understand, has a good charter. It starts under a commission form of government on January 1. It may not be exactly suited to our needs here, but is worth studying."

New York city never has had a scientific charter act, Mr. Scott said. What was known as the consolidated act in 1892 put together a lot of loose laws for the old city. The charter with which Greater New York began life on January 1, 1898, was well enough drawn, but inadequate. Then came the Rives amended charter of 1906.

**Nullified By Amendments.**

"That has been in force since," continued Mr. Scott, "and when I tell you that it has been tinkered with by more than 1,000 amendatory acts or laws directly affecting it, you can realize the condition it is in now. There have been three or four attempts to draw a new charter, including the Gaynor charter and that prepared by the William M. Ivins commission, probably the most scientific ever drawn. But none of them passed the Legislature."

It would probably take until the first of the year for the commission to get together its material, find out what the law is now and where the defects are, Mr. Scott said.

"Twenty-five years ago I used to know a great deal about the charter," he added, referring to his service as Corporation Counsel, "but I went on the bench then, and much water has gone over the dam since. I have a clear idea there is much waste labor and duplication. Some departments have large clerical forces needed during certain seasons of the year only. It is not efficiency to try to train temporary forces. The thing to do, it seems to me, is to have a corps of clerks who may be transferred from one office to another, as needed possibly."

The commission will elect also a vice-chairman and an honorary secretary today. There will be an executive secretary and such minor courses and clerks as may be necessary. An appropriation of \$25,000 that went with the bill will unquestionably be increased as the need develops.

**MOTOR CAR SALESMAN HELD IN HOMICIDE CASE**

**Kessler's Arrest Is Result of Good Detective Work.**

Arthur Kessler, 29, a salesman for the Nash Motors Company, living at 145 Avenue A, was charged yesterday in West Side Court with homicide in connection with the death of Ralph Bramlett, an inspector for the Silver Lunch Company, who was killed November 5 by an automobile which failed to stop after the accident. He pleaded not guilty and was held in \$5,000 bail for examination Thursday.

The arrest was made by Detective Patrick Manley, who began the investigation supplied with this information that the automobile was a Nash, had two license numbers found to be incorrect, and that it was travelling on the wrong side of the street. Manley followed over all the Nash cars in the city and finally arrested Kessler.

**MORSE IS ASKED TO RETURN AT ONCE**

Continued from First Page.

Board that Morse had been stopped at Havre after having "fled the country" upon learning of the board's investigations. Elmer Schlesinger, general counsel of the board, said that with the cooperation of Attorney-General Daugherty and the State Department such steps had been taken as in their opinion were necessary to secure the return of Morse to this country.

While Morse's reported willingness to come back was said by Department of Justice officials to simplify matters, officials discussed the possibility of a warrant being obtained against him upon which his extradition could be asked of the French Government.

Three formal statements, two of them bearing on the Government's position and the other giving the Morse side, were issued today.

Elmer Schlesinger, counsel for the Shipping Board, declared:

"I have been conducting an investigation for the last four months, through Fletcher Doherty, special counsel of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, into the transactions between Charles W. Morse and the United States Shipping Board. To our positive information, Mr. Morse learned of our investigation fled the country."

"The Shipping Board, therefore, with the cooperation of the Secretary of State and the Attorney-General has taken such steps as were necessary, in their opinion, to secure the return of Morse to this country."

"With the assistance of the Secretary of State and the Attorney-General, Morse has been stopped at Havre, and what the next proceedings will be will depend entirely on future developments. Inasmuch as the matter is now in controversy I can make no additional statement."

Attorney-General Daugherty said that when the testimony collected by the Shipping Board was presented to it, the Justice Department "will promptly cooperate to the end that it may be properly presented to a grand jury."

Charges that "a deliberate effort has been made to persecute and defame Mr. Morse" were made in a formal statement by his attorney, Mr. Lambert.

"As far as our counsel has been advised," he said, "there has never been even a warrant issued against him, no grand jury has been asked to indict him and from the official statement of the Department of Justice, the facts have not as yet been presented to that department."

Mr. Morse's statement continued, has wired Mr. Daugherty of his willingness to return to the United States upon the Attorney-General's request, which Mr. Lambert asserted "disproves every publication relating to Mr. Morse's trip across the ocean, his purpose for going and the propaganda which has been conducted against him while he was on the ocean."

Mr. Lambert declared after a conference with two sons of Mr. Morse that he had been authorized by the Moroses to

**LITTLE EVA FORCED TO BEG BY GRANDMA**

**Mrs. Gross in Jail to Await Sentence for Ill Treatment of Eight-Year-Old Girl.**

Several persons who have befriended Eva Burke 8, appeared yesterday in Morrisania court to testify to cruelties alleged to have been inflicted on the child by her grandmother, Mrs. Lillie Gross, 47, of City Island, with whom she lives. After they had testified, Eva was given in charge of the Children's Society and Magistrate Edgar V. Frothingham held Mrs. Gross without bail until Monday, when sentence will be pronounced.

**KLAN CHIEF GONE; CLARKE IN CHARGE**

**Atlanta Nest Pledges Loyalty to Kleagle.**

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. ATLANTA, Dec. 2.—The sudden departure from Atlanta of Col. W. J. Simmons, imperial wizard, with the statement that he was leaving Edward Young Clarke, imperial kleagle, in command; issuance of an additional statement by Clarke denying the insolvency of the order and placing its present membership at approximately 125,000, and passage of a resolution by the Atlanta klan denouncing the latest attack on Clarke and pledging loyalty to him were developments this afternoon in the affairs of the Ku Klux Klan in Atlanta.

From Ku Klux headquarters a statement relative to Simmons' departure was issued. It said he left at midnight Thursday for a "short spell of recuperation in the mountains," and added that he was not concerned over the current agitation by sensational newspapers and disgruntled employees of the order.

"During my absence I shall be in constant touch with Kludge Clarke, who will be in supreme charge of the order's affairs," said the wizard's statement.

**TIGHE IS PUT TO WORK AS COMMON LABORER**

When former Detective Charles Tighe began his first day's work in Sing Sing yesterday he found himself, although a "rooky," paired with August Plashsky, a desperado and old offender, who reached the prison a few hours after Tighe. Both were assigned to common laborers' jobs on rough work in the prison yard.

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**WOMAN IS ACQUITTED ON CHARGE OF MURDER**

**Insanity Reason for Acquittal in Florida Trial.**

ORLANDO, Fla., Dec. 2.—Lena M. T. Clarke was found not guilty because of insanity to-day on a charge of killing M. A. Millmore, a restaurateur. Walter H. Patterson, jointly indicted with Clarke, was acquitted without reservation as to sanity. The jury announced the verdict after about two hours' deliberation.

**DENIES HE SHOT WOMAN.**

Patrick Lovett of 311 State street, Brooklyn, pleaded not guilty yesterday in the County Court, Brooklyn, before Judge Hayes to assault in the first degree. It was alleged that he shot and wounded Miss Dorothy Reed of 129 Twelfth street. His bail was fixed at \$10,000.

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made Eva stay in a coal bin. The reason for the coal bin seclusion did not appear. The patrolman said that in Classroom Point one day he saw Eva begging passively for money, and she told him her grandmother had commanded her not to return home until she had enough money for supper. A school teacher also testified that Eva had complained of being made to beg.

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Murray, a policeman who had found the child begging in the streets, and neighbors of Mrs. Gross testified, however, that Eva had been kicked and pummeled, and that often they had seen the child scrubbing floors. Eva didn't get good meals, and rainy days, according to one of the witnesses, Mrs. Gross

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**What Japan Wants**

Japan "stands alone as the great obstacle in the way of amicable settlement of the Pacific and Far Eastern questions," declares a recent press dispatch from Washington. Nor was the skeptical attitude of this correspondent toward Japanese intentions at the Arms Conference unique. Many other journalistic observers noting how much Japan has at stake in any readjustments in the Orient, waited apprehensively for some move from Japan that would doom the Conference to failure. But instead, we find Japan falling in line with the other Conference Powers behind the principles submitted by the United States Government for the reduction of naval armament and for the solution of Far Eastern problems. True, Japan has suggested certain modifications in the navy-reducing program—but so have other Powers. Even H. G. Wells, whose comment on the Conference has not been exuberantly optimistic, says that "we already seem further from war in the Pacific and nearer security there than at any time in the last two years." Among other assurances given by Japan, Admiral Kato informed the Washington correspondents, in answer to a direct question, that "Japan considers Manchuria as being a part of China." But such assurances, correspondents tell us, leave the Chinese cold. "We may have faith in pledges made by other Powers," writes the associate editor of the Shanghai *Shun Pao*, "but we still entertain grave doubts in those made by Japan."

Nowhere else can you get a more comprehensive sweep of public opinion on all the ins and outs of the Arms Conference at Washington than by reading THE LITERARY DIGEST each week. The leading article in this week's number, December 3, 1921, treats of the attitude of Japan in the parley and the impressions that this attitude makes upon the various nations interested.

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