

REPORT ON CHANGES IN RULES GOVERNING CONDUCT OF FIREMEN

SUPT. OF FIRE ALARMS W. A. BARNES AND SUPT. OF MACHINERY A. L. TRACY ELEVATED TO RANK OF ASSISTANT CHIEFS

Provision Made for Salutation of Superior Officers by Subordinates—Firemen Must Not Discuss Politics, Nor Talk Religion, Nor Attempt to Influence the Votes of Aldermen, or of Members of the General Assembly—They must Not Engage in An Effort to Procure Legislation that Will Be "Subversive of Discipline"—Must Not Form Associations.

Civil service to a limited degree now governs the fire department and an examination in reading, writing and common arithmetic will be required in addition to the physical examination. There is also to be a daily inspection by the captains and all members are required to salute their superior officers.

The fire department has a new book of rules. Many of the rules are the same as the department has had in the past, but there are others that are brand new to the men. The books containing them were distributed among the members of the department, yesterday. It is several years since the department has had a set of revised rules all bound up in book form. The work of compiling the rules was done by Commissioner Frederick A. Strong, who retired from the board soon after four years of service. Mr. Strong has been at work upon the book for over a year. It is a small pocket book of 50 pages and is very terse in defining the duties of every member of the department.

Among the new requirements of the regulations are: Every man appointed to the city of Bridgeport and a resident here three years before making application. No one will be appointed who has been previously dismissed from the Fire, or Police Departments. He shall not be over 35 years of age, or less than 18 feet, 6 inches in height. A table of figures is embodied in the book showing the chest measurement requirements of men according to their height.

No person physically qualified shall be appointed to the service until he has successfully passed an examination in reading, English, writing, English from copy and dictation, and the addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers. Applicants who have not passed this examination made out in the handwriting of the applicants and endorsed by not less than three reputable citizens, not holding any office, or any office, or engaged in the sale of intoxicating liquors. Each applicant must certify to having known the applicant through the past year, and believe him to be of good moral character and in all respects fit for the service.

On entering the department new members will be obliged to take an oath to support the constitution of the United States and the laws of the state of Connecticut, and to obey the regulations and orders of the fire department.

All appointments, or promotions, shall be deemed as on probation for six months and all members can be dropped from the ranks within that time if the commissioners believe that such action is for the best interests of the department.

The chief engineer is the executive officer of the Board of Fire Commissioners, in the management of the department. He shall have the right to all communications between members of the department and the board, except in cases where complaints are made against an officer, when they shall be forwarded direct to the board in writing. On duty the chief shall have absolute command over all persons connected with the department and over all apparatus and appurtenances belonging to the same. He has the power to transfer, or detail, men from one company to another, if needed, in order to maintain each company upon a proper service footing. He shall make such assignments to the men as he may deem necessary and proper. In case of the absence of the chief, the superintendent of machinery shall act as chief.

The superintendent of machinery shall be given the rank of assistant chief, and shall have maps and records necessary for a proper understanding of the fire alarm system. In no case shall any work be performed for any person, company or corporation not connected with the department without orders from the board.

Captains of companies shall have command of their companies and be directly responsible for the proper care of horses, apparatus and equipment. Promptly at 8:30 p. m. each day he shall require each member of his company to report on the apparatus, floor in regulation uniform; all to be neat and clean in person, uniform and equipment. He shall assign the company in order of rank and in case of salute and uncover call the roll, read the company all general or special orders received since the previous roll call; announce details for house or street cleaning the following day; give instructions for

WORTHLESS BONDS FOR BENWELL HOME

Sharpeners on Trial Charged With Conspiracy to Defraud Worthy Couple.

Woman Signed Warranty Deed of Property Without Receiving Equivalent

The case of Walter H. Quimby of Worcester, Mass., and Hector C. McLean of this city, charged with conspiracy to defraud Geo. A. and Emma C. Benwell out of their house and property at 188 Gilbert street last December, is being heard before Judge Ralph Wheeler and jury in the Superior court. McLean and Quimby, it is alleged, went to the Benwell home representing themselves as prospective buyers of the property, which the Benwells stated was for sale. The price of \$4,000 was agreed upon. The two young men were willing to offer four \$1,000 realty bonds, but the Benwells wanted cash. One day McLean went to the Benwell home asking Mrs. Benwell to sign a certain warranty deed of the property, telling her that he was going to her husband's place of business, which is at the Connecticut Paper Co., to get his signature, afterwards, instead of getting the husband's signature, McLean went to the office of the town clerk, where the deed was recorded. McLean then brought \$1,000 on the property at Burr & Knapp's. The Benwells were never given a cent for the property which is recorded in the name of the new owners.

Mrs. Benwell, who has brought an action to recover her property, was the first witness called yesterday afternoon. She stated that McLean came to her house a year ago last November, stating that he had heard the property was for sale. The answer was in the affirmative. After considerable talk, \$4,000 was agreed upon as the price for the home. She was asked if she would not accept four \$1,000 realty bonds, but replied that she would take nothing but cash. The proposition about the bonds and cash was generally talked over among her husband and the two buyers. She had heard her husband insist upon cash, and also said that if the bonds were not cash, she would not receive a cent for the transaction. She admitted that she had agreed to give Mr. McLean \$20 for his trouble in the matter.

Assistant Town Clerk William T. Mullins testified that he was in the town clerk's office at the time McLean brought in the deed for records, and took out a certificate.

In today's evidence Mr. Benwell corroborated the testimony of his wife, given yesterday afternoon, stating the transactions he had with McLean and Quimby regarding the sale of his house and the bonds, but that he had not received any money from either Quimby or McLean.

The secret influence which are usually put forth in favor of the public

BANNER BUILDING YEAR IN BUSY BRIDGEPORT

The year 1909 is the banner year in the history of the building industry in this city. In the aggregate value of the buildings constructed it will add approximately \$3,000,000 to the grand list and exceeds 1907, the former banner year, by about a half million dollars.

There is still another meeting of the Building Commissioners to be held this year and permits for buildings aggregating \$34,000 will cause the total amount to reach the three million mark. The total value of the buildings for which permits have been granted up to date is \$2,966,283.

In 1907, when the total value of new buildings reached \$2,448,508, prominent builders thought it would be a long time before these figures were surpassed.

In 1908 the first six months brought the figures way down and although the building trade was brisk during the last half of the year, the total for the year, \$1,648,490, fell short of the 1907 record by three-quarters of a million dollars.

The value of the buildings for which permits were issued in the last two years are as follows:

| Year | Quarter | Value |
|------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1908 | First quarter | \$ 256,467 |
| | Second quarter | 368,021 |
| | Third quarter | 474,799 |
| | Fourth quarter | 549,203 |
| | | \$1,648,490 |
| 1909 | First quarter | \$ 471,346 |
| | Second quarter | 876,278 |
| | Third quarter | 1,136,376 |
| | Fourth, (not completed) | 482,283 |
| | | \$2,936,283 |

The total amount of money paid to the city for permits this year was \$3,254 against a total of \$2,022 paid last year.

The work of the department has increased to such proportions that Building Inspector Rowland feels the need of securing an automobile runabout to take the place of his horse and wagon. The Building Commission will ask for the runabout in their requisition and base their request that the cost of keeping the car will not surpass the cost of keeping, feeding, shoeing and doctoring a horse, together with the upkeep of a carriage and harness. They will also impress upon the Tax Board the fact that activity on the part of the Building Inspector means a larger grand list and that he would be able to lend more aid to the Board of Assessors than at present if he was equipped with a small runabout.

BEAUTIFUL BRUNETTE'S STRAIN OF NEGRO BLOOD BRINGS RUN TO HOME

HUSBAND'S STARTLING DISCOVERY IS PROMPTLY FOLLOWED BY SUIT FOR DIVORCE

Dark Eyed Beauty Denies Her Mulatto Father, But Her Aunt Confirms Remarkable Tale of Strange Inter-Racial Marriage

Relative Fears Her Babe Was Born Black and Was Hidden that World Might Not Know Parents' Secret—Child Taken from Mother's Side at Birth Is Now Held to Be Dead—More Remarkable Than Fiction the Experiences of Girl Who Vanished from This City Two Years Ago.

Mrs. William S. Horton, since last May the bride of a supposedly wealthy plumbing contractor of New York city, and for several years well known about this city because of her striking type of brunette beauty, has been sued for divorce on the ground that she is a negress, and that she deceived her husband at the time of their marriage into the belief that she was white.

The suit was begun before Justice Dowling in the New York Supreme court yesterday, and a genuine sensation was created when the grounds for the divorce were made known.

Equally sensational today came the confession of the husband's allegation, from Mrs. Gladys DeVal, sister of the girl's dead mother. "I believe in telling the whole truth," said she at her home here today. "If I am called to the witness stand I will swear: she is a negress. So will my mother, her own grandmother. The strain of negro blood comes from her father, a man of mystery. None of us has heard from him for ten years or more. We believe he fled on a sailing vessel from New York to escape arrest for bigamy."

From the story of Mrs. DeVal the matrimonial entanglements of the dead mother and missing father were little less remarkable than the present situation of the beautiful young woman.

Mrs. Horton, a girl of 19, disappeared from Bridgeport about two years ago, and even her closest relatives heard nothing from her until last May, when she reappeared here and told them of her marriage to the wealthy plumber. The girl's good fortune was hailed with surprise among those who knew her best, for she had developed from a poor girl into a young lady, and her disappearance was looked upon as an indication that she had gone the way of many a young girl reared without a mother's care.

Mrs. DeVal not only disclosed the family skeleton haunting the Horton home, but also declared that her father had been a mulatto, and that her father's mulatto father was like the proverbial sailor, with a wife in every port. The formal taking of testimony will take place in a few days before Attorney John J. Phelan, appointed by Justice Dowling of the New York Supreme court as a commissioner to take the sworn testimony of both Mrs. Ella Williams and Mrs. DeVal.

Coupled with the sensational miscegenation feature of the divorce case was the fact that both Mrs. DeVal's wife that she fears her child who was represented to her to have died, is kept in hiding from her. And Mrs. DeVal, who is anxious that the whole truth shall come out, is equally in doubt as to whether the child is dead or secreted because it is a reversion to the negro type. Mrs. DeVal is especially perturbed over this phase of the remarkable case, because the estrangement between her and her husband came at the time of the birth of the child. Mrs. Horton declared she had never been permitted to hold the infant in her arms. Born on July 4, the babe was taken from her side, and on July 25 came a note from a founding asylum to the effect that the child had died to death.

Horton's petition for divorce states, "Edith May DeWilliams Horton, my wife, represented herself to be a white woman, and I, her husband, believing carefully concealing the fact that her father was a negro and that the blood in her veins is the blood of a negress."

In her response through her legal constituted guardian, Mrs. Mary Schuber, of 260 West 96th street, Mrs. Horton declares she has no knowledge that would lead her to believe that she or her ancestors were tinged with negro blood. She further declares she never knew her paternal grandfather or grandmother, and that she never knew where her father is if he is alive. Her lawyer is William Solomon of 263 Broadway, while Attorney Jeremiah Tooty, formerly of the city of New York, is her lawyer in New York, where young Horton's parents live, is his counsel.

Mrs. DeVal told a Farmer reporter today that five years ago last March she had a very strange experience. Her mother, Mary Williams, the mother of Mrs. Horton, died in the Norwalk hospital, and as a dying request besought her to wash her mother's body. "I thought I was then a girl of 14," said Mrs. DeVal today. "I brought her to this city with me, and we lived for a while in North Bridgeport, and later at Main and Congress streets. Edith was a headstrong girl, and after a couple of years she got so I could do nothing with her. She did so well in school frequently, and I finally had to ask the police to help me watch her. She was arrested several times, and then drifted away from me."

"Mary Williams, my sister, married as her first husband Howard Williams, a mulatto, who we understood came from Boston," said Mrs. DeVal. "They lived at 84 Franklin street, Danbury. There were many children, but only three lived, and Edith was the second of them. Her father, who I never saw, disappeared. He came back two years later and then for years we never heard of him. I don't know what he had gone to sea. We heard he had a dozen different wives. In 1855 or 1856 my sister married Robert Carey in Newburyport. She had no other children, but didn't think it necessary when she heard about Williams' many wives. They went to live in Wilton. "On Williams' last visit to my sister she took the children away, and gave them to a colored woman in Ansonia. (Continued on Page 2.)

SECRET INFLUENCES WORKING TO PREVENT ELECTRIC PROBE ARE NOT SO FAR SUCCESSFUL

Effort to Induce Democratic Aldermen to Betray Platform of Their Party Fails to Make Headway

The proposed contract with the electric light company, under which the city is to take a reduced rate for lamps and suspend investigation of the lighting monopoly, was taken up by the Council committee on Miscellaneous Affairs, at its meeting in the City Hall last night. A majority of the committee was opposed to accepting the company's proposal.

The secret influences which are usually put forth in favor of the public service monopolies have been strenuously exerted during the past few days, especially to obtain the support of Democrats, but so far not successfully. Inasmuch as the platform adopted by the Democratic party at the last city convention calls for the rejection of the contract, and the investigation of the company, with the view of securing a reduction in rates to both private and public consumers. The members of the committee are Aldermen Conlin, Paddock, Mahoney, Meyer and Jackson.

WIFE OF WEALTHY MANUFACTURER OBTAINS DIVORCE WITH ALIMONY

Mrs. Lottie Comstock, in Testimony Says, that William W. Comstock Three Times Dragged Her from Bed, Dislocating Her Shoulder.

Rather than to endure longer the cruelties heaped upon her by her husband, Lottie Comstock of South Norwalk was this afternoon freed from William W. Comstock, a retired manufacturer of South Norwalk, on the ground of intolerant cruelty. The plaintiff asked for alimony, stating that her husband was worth \$150,000. By agreement between her counsel, James R. E. DeForest of this city, Judge John H. Light of Stamford, counsel for Comstock, the court granted the plaintiff alimony of \$10 per week for the rest of her natural life. The Comstocks are each 67 years of age, and both had embraced matrimony before they were united Feb. 8, 1899. Mrs. Comstock stated to the court that her family, which consisted of two daughters, never received her into their father's home. They always treated her as a stranger. Their attitude was soon assumed by her husband, so much so that she went to live with her son in Seattle, Wash., for a brief period of time. She came back again to live with her husband, and again went out to the coast.

It was on April 22, 1906, when Mrs. Comstock stated, her husband abused her shamefully. She did not like the bed she was accustomed to sleep in, and as there was another one better in the house not in use that evening, she decided to occupy it. When her stepdaughter saw her in the bed she ran and told her father. The father then pulled Mrs. Comstock out of the bed into the floor. She managed to get back into the bed, again, and was for the second time pulled out on the floor. When she got back a third time, her husband lifted her in his arms and carried her to her own bed. The pulling out of the bed was not all that Comstock did to his wife. When she was on the floor he jumped over her chest and shoulders. She suffered a dislocation of the left shoulder, she decided to occupy it. When her husband was on her side developed from the injuries she received.

Lynch, Phoenix, Ill.

The boiler was used to generate steam for a concrete mixer owned by Sims & Company of Philadelphia, by whom the dead men were employed. The boiler house was blown to pieces and the bodies of all the dead men were so horribly mutilated that recognition was almost impossible. The bodies of the men were found several hundred feet from the boiler house.

The Bible meeting presents the Sunday school with a tree and presents for the whole school. There will be Christmas speaking and festivities by the children. Santa Claus is expected. Parents and friends are cordially invited. Tree and festivities Thursday, 7:30.

LOST—About a week ago, a small white and black bull dog. Return to 138 Benham st.

HALLEN FOR POLICE BOARD

Well Known Marketman to Go On Board of Charities

It became known today that Attorney Edward F. Hallen will be the new Democratic police commissioner and F. W. Behrens, Jr., the well known marketman will succeed James Stone as a charity commissioner.

FINNEGAN FINDS GAYNOR "RIGHT"

BRIDGEPORT PATROLMAN AND NEW YORK MAYOR HAVE SPLENDID TIME TOGETHER—HALF OF GAYNOR'S 40 PIGS FOR NEIGHBORS.

Court Officer Christopher Finnegan returned to his duties today, from St. James, L. I., where he spent Christmas. He met Mayor-Elect William J. Gaynor of New York, while on the visit and had a very pleasant chat with him. Mr. Gaynor leaves politics out of his conversation, when talking with his old friends like Mr. Finnegan, and their talk was about personal matters.

Mr. Finnegan said Mr. Gaynor was very popular with his townpeople in St. James. A reason for this may be found when it is known that notwithstanding the terrible storm Mr. Gaynor walked around to some of his friends' homes and wished them a "Merry Christmas." He also depleted his stock of 40 pigs by one half for those of his neighbors in St. James, who were not as prosperous as himself.

Albany, Dec. 23.—Governor Hughes today authorized the removal to New Jersey of Caroline B. Martin and Mrs. Mary Sneed, who were detained in New York upon the suspicion of being implicated in the murder of Mrs. O'cey W. M. Sneed, on Nov. 23.

FIVE KILLED IN BOILER EXPLOSION

(Special from United Press.)
Reading, Dec. 23.—Five men were killed by the explosion of a boiler in the new plant of the Metropolitan Electric Company in West Reading today. The dead are: Frank Cole, James Conley, Waterbury, Conn.; Clifford Martin, Tomms River, N. J.; Elmer Denzier, Mount Penn, and Martin

UNCLASSIFIED

NEATLY FURNISHED rooms to rent. Steam heat, bath and telephone. 59 Courtland St. T 29 * a *

SEE DR. MANSFIELD, 201 Meigs building. He can cure your corns. Painless. No cutting. a *

THERE IS AS MUCH DIFFERENCE between our rubber goods and the common stuff you get elsewhere. There is between gold and silver.—at O'Neill's. a *

FOR SALE.—To close an estate, 10 acres farm. Near Success Hill. A bargain. The Bridgeport Land & Title Co., Agent. T 29 d *

WANTED.—Drivers and store clerks; only those that can furnish recommendations need apply. The Great A. & P. Co., 37 Main St. a *

THE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL provides special opportunities for boys under twelve years of age who are one, two, or three years below high school grade. 1 4 3 *

OUR SPECIALTY—Country Pork, Pig's Hocks, and Brautwurst, at Nace's, E. Main St. G 15 * f o 1 3 5

PRICES have gone up and will go higher, cover your boiler and pipes now. J. F. Welsh, 114 Kosuth street. H 18 * f o 5 3 1

GUINEA HENS, ducks, roasting chickens, broilers, fowl, liver pudding, sausage meat, bologna. B in-mo & Bilts. G 15 * 1 3 5 o

WHEN YOU WANT a good Derby or soft hat, see Jim at 57 East Main street. You know who James J. Sheehan. D 14 * f o 1 3 5

PRATT'S CAFE, 137 Fairfield Ave., is sure to have what you want in teas, wines and liquors. Do not forget the fine free lunch served daily. G 28 * 1 3 5 o

WE DO THE RIGHT kind of picture framing at lowest prices. Standa d Art Store, 1219 Main St., Stratford building. 1 30 2 *

NEW YORK BOLOGNA and frankfurters, home made meat loaf, fresh daily. Peter Hron, 1216 Stratford Ave. U 28 * f 3 5 o

CARD OF THANKS.
Mr. and Mrs. August C. Seith hereby express their thanks to the friends and relatives also Victoria Stamm No. 3, Olga Lodge, D. of H., Liederkreis S. E., and employees of the printing department U. M. C. Co. who so kindly sent flowers and assisted us during the illness and death of our beloved and only son Joseph. a *

BOY WANTED to work in store, 1129 Main street. a *

ENGLISH AND GERMAN Canaries, all prices; guaranteed singers. Courtney, 116 Wall St., upstairs. Open evenings. a * p *

FOR SALE.—Mathushek Piano, parlor size—re-string, re-bushed—and case refinished—\$125.00 terms. Wisner's, corner Broad and State Sts. T 22 r * o

FOR SALE.—Gould Upright Piano, fine tone—7-13 octaves—Sticker action. Easy terms. \$35. Wisner's, corner Broad and State Sts. T 22 r * o

FOR SALE.—Sterling Piano, medium size, colonial case design, easy action, good tone, \$125.00 terms. Wisner's, corner Broad and State Sts. T 22 r * o

WANTED.—A shirt folder and hand ironer. Bridgeport Steam Laundry, 377 Fairfield Ave. T 28 * t f o

LOST.—Female French bull, dark brindle, but ears, screw tail. Reward at 29 Thomas St. T 28 * a *

FOR SALE.—Fisher, Behning, Gabier and Mathushek Upright Pianos for sale cheap. Dial & Lee Music Co., 84 Cannon St. T 16 * f o

FOR SALE.—Here is a chance to make money. 4 family house, 20 rooms, rents \$500.00 per year. For your address at Family Publishing Co., office. H 27 * f o

FOR SALE.—Block of 40 rooms, rent for \$135 per year. Good paying property and a widow can't take care of same. Address Farmer office. T 2 t f o

TO RENT.—Apartments at 202 Golden Hill St. Seven rooms and bath. Enquire of owner, 44 Washinton Ave. T 3 * f o

TYPEWRITING.—Mimeographing. Notary Public, Sears, 108 Meigs Building. P 17 t o

TO RENT.—Desk room with roll top desk. 416 Warner Building. 1 2 * t f o

BRIDGEPORT Housecleaning Bureau. Ashes, rubbish removed. 483 Newfield avenue. Telephone 1216-5. Ralph L. Miller, Prop. G 2 t o

FOR SALE.—Single house, 7 rooms, good bargain. Leave your address, Farmer Office. H 27 * f o

CONSTITUTED? Bilious? Sick Headache? Cases Luxine Tablets knock them all. T 6 * o