

RILEY IS FIRED ON CHARGES

Superintendent of New York Prisons is Removed by Whitman Who Sustains Charges of Misconduct in Office.

Deposed Official Says Executive is Swayed By Maudlin Sentimentalists, Victims of "Erratic Visionary."

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 21—John B. Riley, state superintendent of prisons, was removed from office today by Governor Whitman, who in a lengthy opinion sustained the charges of misconduct in office, preferred by himself on Jan. 8.

The governor said that Riley's permanent successor would be named next week and in the meantime Owen L. Potter, who is attached to the executive chamber with the title of executive legal assistant, will be in charge of the prison department.

Immediately after the order of removal was served on Riley, the deposed superintendent issued a statement in which he said:

"In all his advice regarding prison affairs, Governor Whitman has catered to maudlin sentimentalists rather than the public interest or the welfare of the prisoners. In according to the demand for my removal by a coteries of well-intentioned persons who know nothing about prisons, and who have only the most vague notions of prison conditions, being the victims of an erratic visionary, he has shown himself to be deficient in the discharge of his duty regardless of public clamor, a characteristic every official must possess if he is to command and retain the respect of fellow citizens."

In an opinion which accompanied the order of removal, Governor Whitman held that the evidence concerning Riley for the transfer of 65 prisoners from Sing Sing to Clinton prison sustained the charge of misconduct.

Quoting from a letter written by Riley on Nov. 1, to Thomas Mott Osborne, then warden at Sing Sing, that the transfer to Clinton prison except in the cases of tuberculosis was regarded as punishment, the governor said that Riley either was knowingly and wilfully a party to a plan conceived for the purpose of affecting the criminal trial by including in the transfer of prisoners those who are to be witnesses for the defense in the trial of the indictments pending against Osborne, or the condition of the superintendent's office was such that "this wholly reprehensible thing," as the governor termed it, could be brought about by his signature and without his knowledge.

"It was distinctly understood," the opinion says, "that when the present warden of Sing Sing (George W. Kirchwey) took charge that the situation, so far as the so-called 'Osborne controversy' was concerned, should not be disturbed until the conclusion of the trial; that the district attorney and the counsel for the defense should have free access to the prison and to the witnesses, as occasion might require.

"This order, made on the very eve of a criminal trial, served notice to every convict in Sing Sing that he would be sent to a prison for his crimes for punishment should he dare to become a witness in behalf of the defendant."

In conclusion, the opinion states that Superintendent Riley "has accomplished many good things in the management of prisons in this state. I think he has done much to bring humane methods and practices into the management of our penal institutions and I think the public is indebted to him for what he has tried to accomplish and what he has accomplished in the past, but I believe that the condition which this examination reveals in the prison department is intolerable."

Although Riley's successor will not be named until next week, it is understood that the governor has determined upon Frank E. Wade, of Buffalo, president of the state probation commission and president of the state prison commission.

Johnson Boy Has Chance To Recover

At Bridgeport hospital it was said this afternoon that recovery is likely in the case of John Johnson, aged 10, of 1-12 Armstrong place and who was unconscious for a period of 121 hours after being run over by a trolley at Barnum avenue and William street Saturday afternoon.

Assaulted Oiler Recovers Senses

Henry Bennett, oiler on the steamer Naugatuck, regained consciousness at St. Vincent's hospital this morning. It will recover. The police are looking for the Portuguese who is alleged to have committed an assault on Bennett.

AUSTRIANS HOPEFUL OF RESUMING PEACE PARLEY WITH THE MONTENEGRINS

Vienna, Jan. 21—It is announced here that the press reports that Montenegro has discontinued peace negotiations are unfounded. It is stated that as yet the laying down of arms demanded by Austria has not been completed by the Montenegrins and until this is done by all the Montenegrin troops peace conditions will not be discussed. The conditions have not yet been stated as the Austro-German peace commissioner Otto, formerly Austrian minister at Cetinje, is still enroute for this city and arrived Saturday today.

It is added that several days will be required before all the Montenegrin troops will come in from the hills and surrender.

MECHANIC WELL KNOWN BURIED AS UNIDENTIFIED

Corpse Found Off Fayerweather's Island Was That of John Friberg.

John Friberg, aged 62, widely known as a mechanic, and for three years a boarder at the home of Mrs. Anna L. Anderson, 714 Howard avenue, was buried as an "unknown person" in potter's field, at Lakeview Home, one week ago today.

Discovery of this fact was made by the police department today, when articles found upon Friberg's body, discovered off of Fayerweather's Island on Jan. 10, were investigated by the police department. Friberg's friends propose to take steps to have his body removed from the public burying place.

For four days the body of Friberg lay in the morgue of Cullinan & Mullins. Many called, but among those who view the body was none who recognized the West End mechanic. The effects which led quickly to his identification, when given to the police, were in possession of Medical Examiner S. M. Garlick, and later of Coroner John J. Phelan.

It is stated in the papers that on Sept. 25, J. W. Ziegler was doing business in the West End under the firm name of the Peoples' Coal & Wood Co., that the station at that time had been standing upon a barge of the Blue Line while the defendant's agents were hoisting coal by means of a derrick and iron bucket. The bucket fell and struck Mrs. Pissetto on her right side, crushing her ribs, crushing her right arm and also crushing and bruising the right side of her body.

It is further alleged that she has been in St. Vincent's hospital in a critical condition since the date of the accident, that physicians' bills amounting to \$1,500 have been paid and that she will have to remain in bed for an indefinite period with loss of use of her right arm for life.

The case is returnable for hearing at the February term of the superior court.

NO INSPECTIONS AT BRIDGEPORT SINCE OCTOBER

Howland Charges Firemen Have Neglected System Adopted by Mooney.

J. Hastings Howland, engineer of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, appeared at the banquet of the Bridgeport association, talked over fire conditions here, and scolded the method of inspection in vogue.

"I know that no fire inspections have been made in this city since October," he declared.

The significance of this was brought home to the members of the association when they remembered that it was about October that the administration ousted Chief Edward Mooney as head of the department.

"I have reason to believe that no blanks have been filed since that time," declared Howland.

Chief Daniel E. Johnson declares that this is because many of the men have been ill and the department has been short-handed. Sickness during the past year, he declares, has prevented the inspections that were formerly made by captains and lieutenants.

"We have been going in more for inspecting wiring, piping and other things of an electrical nature," he declared, "whereas formerly the study was means of fighting fires in certain places." Reports have not been kept up, he said, because of illness.

Under Chief Mooney, it was pointed out last night, the reports were always accurate and up-to-date. Cases of violation of the law were reported to Prosecutor A. L. DeLaney.

Mayor Wilson's building code, compiled with paste pot and scissors, was shot full of holes by the fire underwriters in the hearing of the mayor, who was a guest.

KELSO IMPROVED

George Kelso, Jr., aged 20, of 240 Carroll avenue, who yesterday suffered an acute attack of paralysis is able to get about today and the advice of his physician he will refrain from working for another while. It is believed that he will recover.

ASKED TO "GET" CITY SEALER'S SALARY WILL BE INCREASED \$500

MOHR AND MISS BURGER, HE SAYS

Chauffeur Says Mrs. Mohr Part of Plan to Get Long Wanted Husband and Secretary Killed.

STATE COMPLETES MOST OF ITS CASE ONLY FEW MORE WITNESSES WILL BE CALLED IN DIRECT PROSECUTION.

Providence, Jan. 21—The state today virtually completed the direct presentation of its testimony against Mrs. Elizabeth F. Mohr, Cecil V. Brown and Henry H. Spellman, on trial here for the murder of the woman's husband, Dr. C. Franklin Mohr.

George W. Healis, the negro chauffeur, who confessed that he took part in a murder plot, alleged to have been instigated by Mrs. Mohr, finished his testimony just before the luncheon recess. When he left the stand it was believed the state had only a few witnesses to follow before it rested.

J. J. Fitzgerald, of counsel for Mrs. Mohr, concluded his cross-examination of Healis today. The witness said that Mrs. Mohr had told him she would not allow her son Charles to go to his father's home at Newport while Dr. Mohr had Miss Emily Burger there.

John E. Edwards, counsel for Spellman, then began his cross-examination. A letter written by Healis on Oct. 17, to Attorney Edwards in which he asked about the advisability of changing lawyers, was identified by the witness. Healis asserted, however, that by this he did not have in mind any contemplated change in his story of the murder.

Taking up the re-direct examination of the witness, Assistant Attorney General Phillips drew from him the statement that he wrote the letter as a result of a talk with Brown.

"On the night of your arrest did you tell those people who talked with you what Mrs. Mohr told you to tell?" Healis was asked.

"Yes, sir."

"Why didn't you tell Mr. Robbins that Mrs. Mohr was in it?" "Because she told me not to mention her name," Healis replied.

"Did you tell Mrs. Mohr that Miss Burger was going down with the doctor that night?" "Yes, and Mrs. Mohr said it made no difference to get both her and the doctor."

The examination of Healis was concluded at noon.

REBELS DELAY CORONATION OF CHINESE RULER

Emperor Postpones Enthronement Because of New Uprising.

Peking, Jan. 21—The coronation of Yuan Shi Kai as Emperor of China has been postponed indefinitely. The reason given officially is the uprising in Southern China.

The foreign office notified the various legations today that the Chinese government had decided that the enthronement would take place early in February, but that Yuan Shi Kai had issued an order cancelling the arrangements in view of the disturbances in the Yunnan province. No intimation was given when the enthronement will take place.

Government officials estimate that not more than six months will be required to quiet the disturbances in the south.

Foreclose on Rich Stamford Man's Home

A \$50,000 foreclosure suit on property in the exclusive Shippan Point section in Stamford was filed today in the superior court. The Savings Bank of New London brought the action against William P. Baldwin of New York and John T. Knapp of East Orange, N. J., trustees on the estate of Louis D. Marriott of Stamford. The property has a frontage of 893 feet on Shippan avenue. The loan was made in 1910.

CLAD IN PAJAMAS, RUNS TO POLICE STATION AT NIGHT

Awakened by the noise of fleeing burglars, who had just stolen his trousers and \$10.85, Harold Stamford, of 273 Pembroke street, and who, according to the police, report "lives on the top floor under a roof" at that address, pursued the night prowlers to the sidewalk, where they vanished.

AMERICAN BRASS CO. DECLARES EXTRA DIVIDEND

New York, Jan. 21—The American Brass Company has declared its regular quarterly dividend of 1-1/2 per cent. for the current quarter and an extra dividend of 3-1/2 per cent. It was announced here today. The dividends are payable Feb. 1 to stock of record Jan. 15. The company has paid quarterly dividends of 1-1/2 per cent. regularly since 1912 and extra dividends occasionally, the total disbursement last year amounting to 13 per cent.

WOULD HOLD PLACES DESPITE ANY CHANGE

REPUBLICANS DISCUSS SCHEME FOR GETTING CLUTCH ON BEST POSITIONS.

That a plan is in the works to boost the salary of Sealer of Weights and Measures Dennis Kelly from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year and to make the term of office five years instead of one year was a rumor current in the city hall today. It was said that a draft of such a resolution has been prepared and will be offered at the meeting of the common council Feb. 7. Following this it is reported that a number of similar resolutions will be prepared increasing the salaries and the terms of office for a number of municipal officers now held by Republicans.

This is said to be part of a plan of the Republican machine to in-trench itself more strongly in its hold on the city government. The Republicans, having 13 aldermen as against five Democrats, it is expected about any project of this character will be sent through despite what efforts the Democrats may make to conserve the public funds.

Mr. Kelly has held the present office for four years. His present term will expire June 1. The appointment of the incumbent of his office is made in May by the mayor and confirmed by the common council. Mr. Kelly has for years been an active Republican worker in the Twelfth district. Besides the \$1,500 salary the city now provides him with an automobile, an office in the Warner building, telephone, and also with a costly apparatus for testing weights and measures. It costs the city money to maintain this department despite the fees the sealer collects and which he turns over to the city treasury.

An outline of the plan for the increase in salary and in term of this office was talked over by leading Republicans today. Mr. Kelly will resign in the middle of May and immediately after will be re-appointed by Mayor Wilson for the increased term.

Before Mr. Kelly came into office there were two sealers of weights and measures, one a Democrat, the other a Republican. They had no automobile or costly apparatus nor did they maintain an office or a telephone at the city's expense. They were appointed each for a one year term and they usually hired a horse and buggy from some livery stable and completed their work in two months, taking their pay from the fees they received. This is the system followed in most of the cities and towns in the state.

All through the valley of the Des Plaines, the water spread out over the surrounding country, reaching its maximum at Joliet, where a large section of the city was inundated and several villages flooded with five feet of water. Aurora and Elgin, on the Fox river and intermediate towns at St. Charles, Batavia and Geneva, reported high water and much damage.

Southeastern Iowa and the extreme northern and western Missouri were in the rain belt which came up from Texas.

Joliet, Ills., Jan. 21—The worst flood since 1902 engulfed Joliet today. Water ran five feet deep in the streets. Nearly a thousand persons were driven from their homes.

In the business section little damage was done aside from flooded basements. Every available policeman and fireman was put on flood duty and scores of volunteers aided in the rescue work.

Rockdale, a manufacturing town, reported six feet of water on the level and business suspended.

The whole valley of the Desplaines river is inundated.

The river rose six feet at Wilmington and much damage was done there and throughout the adjoining country.

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE'S GENT IN TIGHT CORNER

Chasing Bull With Black-jack, He Substitutes Peanuts As Weapon.

Members of the Animal Rescue league probably will present a resolution for a city ordinance compelling farmers leading cattle to slaughter to have the herd grouped together and chained, at the next meeting of the common council. This, the league would prevent unfortunate occurrences should a bull run amuck in the crowded streets of the city.

Agent Alexander Howell was called to Fairview and North Main street at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon upon complaint of a resident of that section who said a herd from Botsford, being driven to slaughter in this city, were running amuck and that residents were feeling for safety, fearing an attack from a bull that was among the herd.

Upon his arrival, the agent ordered the animals grouped together and chained. One of the cows was so fatigued after the long drive from Botsford that it fell helpless in the roadway at Fairview avenue and it was necessary to transfer it to the slaughter house in the Animal Rescue league ambulance.

It is said that 50 per cent. of complaints filed with the league are relating to abuse of cows being led to slaughter. Usually only one man is in charge of the herd and in order to keep the animals in file he abuses the cows often, it is said.

An exciting scene was presented yesterday when Agent Howell was seen pursuing the infuriated bull. The agent pulled a blackjack from his hip pocket and threatened the animal. After a chase of two blocks, Agent Howell overtook the animal, which, when cornered near a telephone pole, stood with lowered head awaiting the on-coming agent. The latter believed that discretion would be the better part of valor and he endeavored to have the bull surrender peacefully by offering him some peanuts.

While Agent Howell was pleading with the angered bull the driver of the herd approached and calmed the animal, which was led back and chained to the rest of the herd. It was an exciting moment in Agent Howell's life.

THE WEATHER

Unsettled weather with mild temperature probably developing into local rains late tonight or Saturday.

FIVE NEGROES STRUNG UP BY MOB OF WHITES

Taken From County Jail By Ruse, All Are Hanged To Same Tree and Their Bodies Riddled With Bullets—Wanted in Connection With Murder of Sheriff—Wires Cut To Prevent Jailers From Summoning Assistance.

Albany, Ga., Jan. 21—Five negroes were taken from the county jail at Sylvester during the night and hanged to the same limb of a tree by the roadside at Starkville. Their bodies, riddled with bullets, were cold when found today.

Forty or fifty men, acting with precision that bespoke carefully laid plans, took the men from the county jail last night. They came to the jail and carried off their prisoners in high-powered cars.

The negroes were held in connection with the killing of Sheriff Moreland of Lee County. They were hanged three miles from Leesburg where the sheriff is buried.

All wires leading north were cut and the fate of the negroes was not definitely known until hours after they had been lynched.

About 10 o'clock last night Sheriff Potts and his jailer at Sylvester, were awakened by four or five men who announced that they had captured a negro and wanted to place him in jail. They were admitted, bearing a negro bound with ropes. Suspecting nothing, the officers watched the men as they loosened the negro's bonds. Suddenly the men loosened the prisoner and seized the jailers.

Several more automobiles were driven up in front of the jail and the men in them joined those who had released the prisoner. The negroes were pushed out of the jail, bundled into machines and started north at a rapid pace.

The officers immediately attempted to telephone to head off the lynching party but the wires had been cut. Parties searching for the trail of the lynchmen found the five men hanging to one limb within full view of the road out from Starkville. They had been strung up and then made targets for the men who had taken them from jail.

Four of the victims were members of one family—Felix Lake and his three sons, Frank, Dewey and Major. The fifth was Rodius Seamore.

James Keith, a negro, was the prisoner most wanted by the lynchmen but Sheriff Potts had taken the precaution to remove him from the jail several days ago.

Moreland was killed at the home of Felix Lake when he went to arrest a negro. It was reported that more than one of those in the house shot him and were all arrested later.

VAST PROPERTY DAMAGE AS HEAVY RAINS CAUSE FLOODS THROUGH WEST

Chicago, Jan. 21—Rivers throughout northern Illinois, swollen by rain which fell almost continuously through the night, today overflowed their banks and inundated a score of cities and villages. No loss of life was reported but the property damage was estimated at several hundred thousand dollars.

All through the valley of the Des Plaines, the water spread out over the surrounding country, reaching its maximum at Joliet, where a large section of the city was inundated and several villages flooded with five feet of water. Aurora and Elgin, on the Fox river and intermediate towns at St. Charles, Batavia and Geneva, reported high water and much damage.

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U. M. C. CO. HAS DEPARTMENT OF FIRE FIGHTERS

Veteran Battalion Chief of Brooklyn Commands Force of Two Score Men.

The Union Metallic Cartridge Co. is forming a fire department, designed to be the most efficient of any industrial concern in the United States and which when completed will probably equal in equipment and personnel any in this city.

Work of establishing the new corps has already progressed under the personal supervision of former Battalion Chief John H. Travis of the Brooklyn, N. Y., fire department, who will become chief of the department at the U. M. C. works.

Trained fire fighters from various departments in the United States are being employed. One captain, J. R. Vaughan, who held a similar position in the New York fire department, has been employed and another captain and two lieutenants from other cities will, it is said, soon take their places here.

In all there will be 20 firemen on two shifts, 10 working during the day and 10 at night. They will sleep in a special fire department building, which will soon be erected in a central location at the big Barnum avenue plant.

On the lower floor will be the chemical engine, hose wagon, steamer and truck, all of the most modern design. A new M-3 Knox chemical engine, larger than any now owned by the city of Bridgeport, has been delivered and is now kept for emergency fires in the garages of the plant. An extension truck capable of reaching six stories is said to have been ordered.

Among the local men employed is Frank J. O'Brien, 32 California street, who will drive the chemical. He formerly drove the automobile trucks of the company and is said to be most skillful in the maneuvering of heavy motor vehicles.

In response to a request by the British government, England has authorized the importation into Greece of 5,000 tons of coal.

ASKS \$100,000 ALIMONY FROM S. F. WYCKOFF

Woman Who Attempted to Kidnap Child Says Spouse Has Big Fortune.

Mrs. Vera Wyckoff, the wealthy Stamford woman is gaining considerable notoriety because of her domestic troubles with her husband, Spofford F. Wyckoff, son of the owner of the Wyckoff Pipe & Casting Co. of New York.

Her husband recently asked for an injunction restraining Mrs. Wyckoff from taking her child from this state. The latest report is that Mrs. Wyckoff has brought divorce proceedings in which she charges her husband with intolerable cruelty. She declares Wyckoff is worth \$300,000 and asks for alimony of \$100,000.

The injunction against Mrs. Wyckoff was granted Dec. 23 by Judge James Mead of the Greenwich borough court. He vacated this injunction following a hearing in his office last Monday. He mailed notice of his decision to Clerk Lockwood of the common pleas court in this city. Clerk Lockwood said that a second action had been filed in his court and he thought this would have to stand regardless of Judge Mead's decision to vacate the temporary injunction.

The first intimation of trouble in the Wyckoff household came last December when Mrs. Wyckoff and her child were taken in an automobile from Stamford to Greenwich. Wyckoff followed his wife in another automobile and fearing she would leave the state with the child obtained the temporary injunction. It is said that she never left Greenwich, however.

The papers in the divorce action had not been filed in the superior court at press hour.

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