

# First Photograph of the Cat-o'-Nine-Tails Used by the Greers to Whip Orphans

## OUTLOOK FOR D. C. BUILDERS IS BEGINNING TO BRIGHTEN

By BILL PRIDE.

The building outlook for Washington took an upward turn this week and there is strong hope that this may be the beginning of what will culminate in the mightiest construction program the District has known in years.

Undeterred by presumably depressing elements in the general outlook Charles E. Wire, incorporated, has decided to go ahead with dwelling house construction involving an expenditure of \$185,000. He has obtained permits from the building inspector's office of the District government for the erection of eleven two-story dwellings on Fifteenth street, northwest, in the vicinity of Crittenden street; and likewise permits for twelve brick dwellings on Rittenhouse street.

Next week the firm will take out

This is the cat-o-nine-tails, which for nearly twenty years was the instrument of punishment in the Greer bakery, 116 Twelfth street northeast. It has been offered in evidence in the investigation of the strange case of the children now under way in the Juvenile Court. "It was a handy thing to have around the house," William A. Greer said on the witness stand. In whipping orphan boys and girls who worked in the bakery "we never used anything else,"

about doing this, one phase of the building problem will be solved.

**To Stabilize Labor.**

Efforts will then be directed toward stabilization of labor prices through conferences with labor leaders.

The next step will be to endeavor to obtain larger loans from financial institutions, which still decline to make loans except upon a 1916 basis. Important outstanding facts are that wages of labor will ever go back to a 1916 basis; that building material will not for many years, if ever, fall to the basis of that year; that when the public, which buys houses, is convinced of these facts it will not hesitate in purchases. Naturally buyers have been holding off.

As to labor there is a strong hope that labor leaders, looking into the future, may agree that for some months at least they will endeavor to stabilize wages so that the constructor may know how he stands in that direction. The uncertainty as to labor's attitude is a big factor in holding back construction, especially in consideration of large projects involving expenditures of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The Board of Trade committee has before it suggestions of a publicity campaign that will tend to a better understanding all around and to arousing builders and buyers to the opportunities that await them even under existing conditions.

**Another Builder Busy.**

Howard Etchison has taken out a permit for the construction of a four-story apartment house at 1325 Belmont street, northwest, to cost \$60,000, and told officials in the building inspector's office that within a short time he will take out permits for three more apartments of the same size and cost.

A number of permits were issued this week for individual construction. A. Jeffrey is to build a dwelling at 1400 Newton street, northeast, at a cost of \$5,000. There were numerous permits for garages and repairs to existing buildings.

The important fact to Washington, though, is that builders, although naturally wanting to see stabilization of prices, are not going to lose much more time before getting busy. The committee appointed by the Board of Trade is continuing its investigations with a view to preparing the way for extensive construction.

It was ascertained today that a number of large building operators are negotiating for building material direct, claiming that they will save large sums of money this way, rather than buy from material men in Washington who are declared to be holding materials at high prices. If these men succeed in completing their negotiations to buy direct, and they said today there is no difficulty

## ORPHANS KEPT OUT OF SCHOOL TO BAKE

(Continued from First Page.)

telephone and say Lillian had to stay at home and work or that she was ill.

On cross-examination Miss Yoder was asked if it was not true that the girl's absence was due to a smallpox scare in the school.

"Yes; I remember distinctly the smallpox scare," she said. "I also remember that it was only for a day or two, and I know that the Greer children stayed away longer than any others. We had a hard time getting them back in school."

Asked if it was not merely her conclusion that Lillian Gorman was "poorly nourished," Miss Yoder replied: "She looked as if she didn't have proper nourishment. It was a conclusion anybody with eyes would have."

Miss Yoder said she and Mrs. Greer were "not on very pleasant terms because she insisted on the children from the Greer bakery being punctual at school."

The District sought to offer as evidence records from the Edmonds School showing absences and reports of other children from the Greer bakery. They were ruled out by the court on the ground that no children other than the Gorman girl were mentioned in the testimony of Mrs. Greer.

## AUTHORS' BALL IS BRILLIANT AFFAIR

Heroes and heroines of the world's best books are back in their childhood haunts today after coming out of hiding to cheer the men and women who created them.

Memories of the days when the characters of the story books were all-important in the eyes of the present generation were revived last night at the authors' carnival and ball, under auspices of the League of American Penwomen at the Willard Hotel. The fete was attended by crowds of the city's writers, singers, and dancers, with men in uniform from both army and navy. The carnival began with a matinee of fairy-story tableaux and dancing from 2 to 6 o'clock. The ball began at 9 o'clock.

The Willard ball room was decorated to represent history and fiction, the walls covered with posters made by artists of the camouflage corps of the army. The affair was under direction of Mrs. Isaac Pearson, assisted by Miss Dicke Root and Miss Eunice Enzor. The dancing was in charge of Rear Admiral C. J. Peoples.

The musical program began with "The Flower Song" by Mrs. Inez Seymour Milton, accompanied by Miss Margaret Piper. Mrs. Milton also presented a scene from "Faust" with Sam Beverly Milton as "Mephistopheles." Mrs. Milton was formerly with the Philadelphia Grand Opera Company.

Miss Mimi Berger danced the Valentine dance. Earl Godwin, president of the National Press Club, was auctioneer for the sale of books autographed by officials and authors of fame, from resident Wilson to Edwin Markham.

Under the direction of Theodore Tiller, the National Press Club quartet performed. Mr. Tiller explaining that the term was only in the way of a compliment to George O'Connor, the solo member of the quartet. Mr. O'Connor was accompanied by Matt Horn, introduced by Mr. Tiller as "the Paderewski" of the Press Club.

Miss Lenora Sparks, of the Metropolitan Opera, sang a number of solos. A greeting to the penwomen of America from General Diaz, chief of staff of the Italian army, was read by Lieut. Col. Lamberto Tozzi, of the Italian army.

son Conner, Ada Janet Cooper, Ruby Helene Gensberg, Edith Goldberg, Sarah Hannah Halbringer, Emma Lena Nolte, Anna Wilhelmina Schneider, Lois Isabelle Simonds, Kate Stambler, Bertha Minnie Weinstein, Althertha Agnes Wolf, Abraham B. Ackerman, Clay Goodloe Collette, Alfred Goldstein, James Robert Kirkland, Benjamin Laifsky, Edward Holman Libbey, Boyd Clover Sells and Henry Welsenberg.

## TO SELL 1,000,000 TONS OF WARTIME VESSELS

The Shipping Board yesterday announced that it is going to dispose of more than 1,000,000 tons of vessels built to meet the demands of war. The ships to be sold include 110 wooden vessels, of a tonnage of 44,500 tons, and a large number of the small steel cargo

ships constructed to help supply the American army in France.

The sale of these ships is to be one of the first steps in a broad constructive program, the object of which is to place the United States among the leading maritime nations of the world. Other government agencies are co-operating in the effort which has for its object the placing of American bottoms in all the markets of the world.

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**Are You Keeping Up With THE TIMES?**

**25 RECEIVE DIPLOMAS AT BUSINESS HIGH SCHOOL**

Twenty-five graduates of Business High School received their diplomas last night. The principal address was made by Maj. Gen. George Barnett, of the marine corps.

"Stick to what you go after. Persistence and perseverance and hard work are the things necessary to success," said General Barnett.

The diplomas were presented by Col. Robert N. Harper. The school honor for the highest scholastic average was awarded Edward Hoffman Libbey.

Those who received diplomas were: Four-year course—Ethel Goldberg, Corbett, Mildred Amelia Lecker, Mildred Pauline Smith and Donald S. Nash.

Two-year course—Eugenia Beall, Anna Rose Chappeler, Anna Robert.

**Real Estate Deals Probed.**

Assistant Corporation Counsel Geo. P. Barze devoted most of his attention in cross-examining Mrs. Greer to her real estate deals since she began getting orphans from various institutions.

From figures given by Mrs. Greer herself, Attorney Barze figured she had paid \$37,950 for property here and in Virginia.

"Except for the lot at 116 Twelfth street northeast and the lot you bought in 1898, it seems that all of your property was purchased between 1906 and 1915; is that true?" asked Attorney Barze.

"Yes," said Mrs. Greer.

The largest purchase was the 123-acre farm in Virginia for which \$10,000 was paid.

Mrs. Greer testified, on direct examination, that she began taking orphans in the home in 1908.

"You say, as a general rule you didn't pay wages to children when they went to school because you didn't consider they earned as much as they ate?" asked Attorney Barze.

"They certainly did not," Mrs. Greer admitted.

Some time ago, Mrs. Greer said, even before she was charged with violating the child labor law and failing to provide a suitable home for them, she decided to get rid of the girls in the bakery and "not assume the responsibility for them any more."

**Quizzed On Cruelty To Animals.**

"You have said that you never appeared in court before except when Louis Lynn was up for speeding?" asked the prosecutor.

"I did," Mrs. Greer replied.

"Do you remember when you were up in 1910 for cruelty to animals and again in 1912 and paid \$5 in the case?" she was asked.

"No, I don't remember anything about it," she said.

On redirect examination, Mrs. Greer said she got about \$300 a month rental from various pieces of property up to two years ago and since that time had received in the aggregate about \$458 a month.

Mrs. Greer said she had never figured her profits from the cake business.

"Have you ever made any big money at it?" asked Attorney David.

"Never," she said. "I just got a living out of it."

She denied that she had bought real estate out of profits from the cake business.

Mrs. Greer objected to being called a "baker," saying, "I don't bake bread. I make and sell home-made cakes."

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—and we cannot think of anything more that could be added

E. C. ROGERS, Business Manager, THE WASHINGTON TIMES