

BYRNES RESIGNS FROM THE FORCE

After Answering Goff's Questions He Hands Lexow the Letter.

HOW HE GOT ALL HIS MONEY Jay Gould and His Son George Made It for Him in Wall Street.

Commodore Vanderbilt Gave Him His First Lift—Complimenting Dr. Parkhurst's Work—Inspector McLaughlin Is Put Through the Mill—His Wife Acquired a Good Deal of Means in Some Business.

New York, Dec. 29.—At 8:50 o'clock to-night the Lexow committee adjourned subject to the call of the chair, thus closing a session of investigation which was brimful of startling revelations.

Just as he was through answering Mr. Goff's probing questions, Byrnes handed a letter to Chairman Lexow, and said that it was a copy of one that he had sent to Mayor-elect Strong early this month. It was his resignation from the force, of which he has been a member for the last thirty-two years.

The superintendent said that on two occasions since he was appointed in Sept. Murray's place he was on the point of resigning, owing to the continual conflict between the commissioners and himself. The superintendent, he said, should have absolute charge of the discipline of the department, but that all his efforts in that direction were frustrated by the commissioners.

The department was honeycombed with abuses, which had been growing for thirty years and they could only be remedied by radical legislation. Local politicians, he claimed, were

THE CELEBRITY OF THE DEPARTMENT, and as long as politics was a factor in the force such a state of things would exist.

He said a tribute to Dr. Parkhurst, who, he said, manufactured public sentiment, without which it would have been impossible for the committee to have acquired the information it did.

His wealth, which he estimated at \$350,000, was made by speculation, he said, in Wall street, through the instrumentality of Jay Gould and his son George. His purchases of real estate were also very profitable and he claimed not to have a bank account.

The earlier part of the day was given to the examination of Inspector McLaughlin.

"What age were you when you joined the police?" "Twenty-one years old, sir."

"When did you join the force?" "On November 26, 1862."

"How much money had you when you joined the force?" "Six hundred dollars. I had three trucks in West Washington Market for four years previously, and I saved \$4,500 and sold my trucks and horses for \$1,500. I gave the money to my mother to keep for me. She gave it to me before she died, on September 12, 1870. I gave the money to my sweetheart, to whom I was married on November 14, 1870."

"Then you had no confidence in yourself when you gave your money to your mother and then to your sweetheart to keep for you?" "I never accepted a dollar in my life unless honestly."

Witness went on to say that if he had been dishonest he would not have held his job as long as he has.

"I wanted to resign, but did not think I would be doing my duty to the citizens by so doing." The audience here broke into applause.

Witness then stated that as long as politics governed appointments the police would never be efficient.

Witness denied that he had ever interfered with Dr. Parkhurst in his researches in the Eleventh precinct.

Supt. Byrnes then said that he had written a letter to Mayor-elect Strong tendering his resignation.

He handed the letter to Chairman Lexow, who transferred it to Mr. Goff. Mr. Goff requested Mr. Morse to read the letter, which was as follows:

"POLICE HEADQUARTERS, '300 MELBERRY STREET, NEW YORK, December 13, 1894. To Col. W. L. STRONG.

"I desire not to be an obstacle or an embarrassment to you in anything that you may desire to be accomplished in the police department. On the contrary, I wish to aid you in any way that I can."

"I assume that you are now considering the question of the police department. As an administrator, and what legislation will be required to make such action practical."

"I, therefore, now place in your hands my resignation, from the post of superintendent, to be used by you or not at any time after the first of January."

"And let me further say that you may be entirely free to command my services, advice, and information at any time in regard to the affairs of the police department, with which I have been so long connected. Your obedient servant, THOMAS BYRNES."

There was considerable applause when the letter was concluded. As the witness was leaving the stand he said, in reply to Senator Lexow: "The police force must be reorganized. The present system is all wrong."

Resolutions were then passed, thanking all who had been concerned in the investigation for the facilities extended to the committee.

GREAT TARIFF WAR WITH ALL EUROPE

United States Is on the Verge of a Bloodless Conflict.

FRANCE FOLLOWS GERMANY In Obstructing the Importation of American Food Products.

Commercial Agent Angell at Roubaix Warns the State Department of the Movement Put on Foot by Agriculturists—Increase of Seven Francs in the Sugar Duty—Powerful Retaliatory Weapon in Our Hands.

Signs multiply to show that the United States is on the verge of a great tariff war with all Europe.

France now appears to be following in the lead of Germany in placing restrictions and obstacles in the way of the importation of American food products, and, as in the case of Germany, this is a development of the Agrarian policy and is intended to help the French farmer, though ostensibly put forward as a measure in the interest of public health.

In a report to the State Department from Roubaix, United States Commercial Agent Angell warns the department of a movement put afoot by the agriculturists of the department of the North to establish certain reforms in reference to duties upon agricultural products and other matters.

The minister of agriculture has been memorialized upon the subject by a delegation. It complains of the importation of American beef, and prays that the quarantine laws upon animals be rigidly enforced so that no cases where the sanitary authorities detect contagious diseases in cattle shall be allowed to enter, or at least shall be subjected to a quarantine in the lazarettos established at the various ports of entry.

They insist upon the danger caused by the establishment of slaughter-houses at the maritime ports, which, they say, have the effect of lowering still further the price of meats on account of the competition thereby created.

They pray for an increase of 7 francs in the duty upon sugars imported from other than French colonies, and for a bounty upon French colonial sugars.

Some of the advance figures relative to the extent of the imports into the United States coming in Spanish bottoms have been unexpectedly furnished to the Department of State, and they show that the department has an unexpectedly powerful weapon in a retaliatory war if it comes to the point.

Since September 1 the value of such goods entered at the Atlantic ports was a little over four and a half million dollars, or at the rate of \$18,000,000 per annum, a commerce too considerable to be sacrificed by Spain without great provocation.

COMSTOCK WILL NOT DOWN. He insists Upon the Publication of His Letter to the Committee.

New York, Dec. 29.—Anthony Comstock has addressed a letter to the Lexow committee regarding the statements made by a witness named Streep on Thursday, that he (Streep) had paid Comstock \$1,000 to drop a prosecution against him for swindling.

Mr. Comstock asks that, as he had been denied the right to refute upon the witness the allegations of Streep, whom he stands as a perjurer in the case, that the criminal, his letter be given the same publicity as was the allegation of the witness Streep.

"The assault made upon me by the conance and consent of your committee," Mr. Comstock writes, "is a monstrous perversion of rights."

After further denunciation of Mr. Goff, Mr. Comstock states at great length the work he has accomplished as agent for the Society for the Suppression of Vice. He denies that he ever sought to obtain the dismissal of an indictment against Streep, and asserts that in fact he protested against it. The case of Olin D. Gray he reviews in great detail, reviewing his charges and indictments against defendant were dismissed at the recommendation of Mr. Goff, while assistant district attorney.

POPULISTS' ADDRESS. It Is Directed to the Party and All the People.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 29.—The work of the conference of the national committee of the People's Party with the leading members of the rank and file came to a fruition to-night when that committee submitted to the conference, as a result of the discussion of the discussions of the conference, an address to the party and to the people.

Its presentation was met by the gathering with a shout that rang through the hall, and indorsement of the conference was given with vigorous viva voce vote.

The address is an elaboration of the resolutions framed by Judge Lyman Trumbull, of Illinois.

FIREMEN KILLED. Two Perish at the New York Fire and Four Injured.

New York, Dec. 29.—Battalion Fire Chief John J. Breslin and Fireman John L. Rooney, of Truck 12, were killed to-day by the falling of a floor during the fire which gutted several stories of the gas and electric fixtures factory of Cassidy & Son, manufacturing company, 124 to 128 West Twenty-fourth street.

The fire did \$60,000 damage. Assistant Foreman William Hennessy, of Engine 18, receiving a leg broken and three other firemen were slightly injured.

Increase of Wages Granted. CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 29.—The Cleveland Shipbuilding Company has decided to grant its employees a 10 per cent. increase in wages.

A committee from the employes called on the officials a few days ago and asked for the increase on behalf of the men. About 150 men will be affected.

Policeman Broke a Leg. Policeman J. E. Preston, of the Third precinct, fell on an icy pavement yesterday and broke a leg. He was removed to the Emergency Hospital, where the injured limb was set. The patrolman lives at 925 Florida avenue.

An Admirable Selection. New York, Dec. 29.—Col. George E. Waring, Jr., has been selected by Mayor-elect Strong for the office of street cleaning commissioner. Col. Waring is an eminent sanitary expert.

Giving Clothes Away. To-morrow being the last day of the New York Clothing House's business career in Washington and wishing to commemorate the event in a manner suitable to the occasion, they have adopted the remarkable scheme of actually giving clothing away. Every fourth purchaser of a suit, overcoat, or pair of pants, or for that matter, all three, will be allowed to carry his purchase home without being obliged to pay a cent for it.

ACADEMY TO-MORROW NIGHT

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ENTER ACTIVELY INTO POLITICS Men with Millions Should Not Start the New Political Party.

England's Labor Leader Addressed a Meeting in Convention Hall—His Critics Likened to Fleece Around Butchers' Stalls—Americans Should Observe the Reforms Inaugurated in His Country.

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