

THE SUSPENDED OFFICER

Colonel O'Brien Delays Asking for a Court of Enquiry.

Much Speculation as to the Cause of His Refusal to Act—Some Think He is Afraid of Harries—Indignation Among Members of the District National Guard—A Month of Delay.

Although a whole month has passed since the now famous Harries-O'Brien incident at Camp Ordway, which resulted in the suspension of the latter officer, no move has yet been made by either side for the reinstatement of Colonel O'Brien as an officer of the District National Guard and he is still under suspension, pending the pleasure of the general in command.

There are those in the Guard who say the blame is laid upon Colonel O'Brien, while others hold that General Harries has openly acted the tyrant and has no right to keep an officer under suspicion for a whole month without making any effort to bring the matter to a head.

It will be remembered that Colonel O'Brien was suspended from duty and placed under arrest by General Harries on June 15 last, while the Guard was in camp at Camp Ordway. The action resulted from the refusal of Colonel O'Brien to go to the rear of the line to receive a message from one of General Harries' aides, it being held that it was the duty of the aide to deliver messages directly into the hands of the officers. The aide refused to deliver the message and Colonel O'Brien later endorsed the document with the statement that the procedure of the general in command was both unimpeachable and ludicrous.

Colonel O'Brien was ordered to leave the camp at once, and has since been suspended.

As the case now stands, Colonel O'Brien has been suspended for "endorsing in an unimpeachable and improper manner" an order sent to him by the general commanding the Guard. Aside from the legal status of the suspension and the fact that Colonel O'Brien has raised the question as to what right General Harries had to suspend an officer for an indefinite period without presenting charges, many of the officers of the Guard have grown tired of hearing about the case, and hold that the blame for the long delay lies entirely with Colonel O'Brien, who has refused to accept a court of enquiry in the case and have the matter settled fairly.

A prominent officer of the Guard, who was also a member of the District National Guard of Columbia Volunteers, stated yesterday that while his whole sympathy was with Colonel O'Brien in the present matter, he thought that the latter should have accepted a court of enquiry unless he came out boldly and made a fight for justice.

General Harries stated by a member of the District National Guard that he has not seen Colonel O'Brien since he was appointed as soon as he came to demand one. He is now suspended and under suspicion and he should be seriously injured, would prefer to come out like a man and clear himself. He has a right to select counsel and will be given a fair hearing by an impartial jury. Surely it would be better than to remain in a hole as at present and allow his friends to believe that he feared General Harries.

"He knows as well as I do that General Harries is not a court of enquiry, and from what I can learn he (Harries) will keep him suspended until October next, when the punishment will be declared definite and Colonel O'Brien will be reinstated.

"This is no way to do, as such a course would be tantamount to pleading guilty and accepting the sentence of the court. It is well known fact that if Dick O'Brien would come out like a man and show his backbones, demand a court of enquiry, and assert his rights, force General Harries to place charges against him, and have the court consider the matter, nearly every man in the Guard would stand by him and back him up. And it is more than likely that he would be reinstated as lieutenant colonel of his regiment.

"This is the way we feel about it. The men of the Guard are tired of the O'Brien case and are being established every time the Guard goes together. It is now up to Colonel O'Brien and he does not demand a court of enquiry, then he is not a man. He will only too quick to class him in the same category as his commanding general. The fact that Colonel O'Brien has meekly accepted a whole month of suspension and is even now undecided as to whether or not he will ask for a court of enquiry, shows that he is either afraid of Harries or is afraid of the public opinion, and, conversely. Even if this were the case, we would think more of Colonel O'Brien for having secured his rights than we would have to wait and see the result of the course of events. It is now Colonel O'Brien's next move and we are waiting for him to act.

Many officers of the Guard yesterday expressed themselves as being puzzled over the stance and inaction of Colonel O'Brien. They claimed that nothing could be expected from General Harries, since the latter had already made up his mind as to the officer under suspension, and was not likely to place charges until a court of enquiry had been demanded. Unless such action is taken by the general, it is believed that General Harries will keep Colonel O'Brien under suspension until October, when he will be reinstated as having expiated his crime against the dignity of the power that in the eyes of the public is the cause of the call being issued for the convening of a court of enquiry. Those who are in touch with National Guard headquarters claim that General Harries will only too glad to issue the call and to place the necessary charges in the hands of the Judge Advocate General of the District Guard for prosecution.

The friends of Colonel O'Brien are awaiting action on his part and hope that he will take prompt measures to right himself.

PREDICTED HIS OWN DEATH. Daniel Van Atta Advances for His Funeral.

Trenton, N. J., July 14.—Having predicted several years ago that he would die this year, and being overtaken with a conviction Wednesday that his death was imminent, although he was apparently in good health, Daniel W. Van Atta, Supervisor of the New Jersey State Hospital for the Insane, made the most minute preparations for his funeral and was found dead in bed yesterday morning.

Mr. Van Atta called on James Murphy, an undertaker, Wednesday, and chose a plain casket, giving directions for the interment in the cemetery. He then ordered four coaches, and having picked out a black suit, asked for the bill, which he paid by check.

When these arrangements had been completed Mr. Van Atta returned to the asylum, and died early yesterday morning from Bright's disease.

THE NEIGHBORLY INDIGNANT

Loose Quarantine of Diphtheria Case in Ninth Street.

Persons living in the vicinity of Ninth and I Streets northwest are indignant over what they consider a flagrant violation of the District health laws. Their indignation is due to the fact that a lax quarantine has been maintained at the house of George W. Lucas, at 306 Ninth Street, during the past week while one of the children of the family was sick with diphtheria.

Mr. Lucas, the head of the family, conducts a plaiting and pinking establishment on the main floor of the building, which he resides. There is a door on the right side of the main shop window of the establishment. It leads to the residence, but the door is kept closed and the only entrance to the past few days a blue diphtheria card, one of the kind used by the Health Officer, has been tacked on this door in the main shop window, and is very noticeable. There is a second door on the left side of the bay window, leading into the store. There is no diphtheria card on this door, although it is used almost exclusively by the family and by the public.

Neighbors think that the entire dwelling and store should have been quarantined, and that a strict quarantine should have been kept up until the passing of the danger period.

FELL OFF THE TRAIN. Death of a Four-Year-Old Boy Left in the Care of a Porter.

Arthur Bowen, the four-year-old son of John P. Bowen, of Memphis, Tenn., died at Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore yesterday morning as the result of injuries sustained from falling from a Pennsylvania Railroad train from New York City about a week ago.

The boy fell from the train at Baltimore, and was taken to the Johns Hopkins Hospital, where he died yesterday morning. His mother and two brothers to this city. All had been in the dining car and when returning to the sleeper Arthur and his brother were engaged in a game of cards while Mr. Bowen held an infant in his arms.

On reaching the platform of the car Arthur let go of the infant and the boy fell from the train. The porter at once acquainted Mrs. Bowen with what had occurred and signaled a conductor to stop the train. A search was made for the missing boy, but he could not be found. The train continued on its journey with the frantic mother and her two little ones. The railroad people were notified of the accident and a search for the boy and Richard Simpson, a track walker, finally found him. The little boy was found in a ditch and was seriously injured.

Dr. Stier, of Perryman's, who was called in attendance, advised that he be removed to a hospital. An engine was detached to convey the boy to Baltimore, where he was placed in the Johns Hopkins Hospital, where he died yesterday morning. It was understood when examined was found to have sustained a severe fracture of the skull, numerous bruises and cuts, and that the boy died with a fractured skull.

FORFEITED HIS BAIL. Levere, the Shoplifter, Quits the City in a Hurry.

George Levere, who was arrested about two weeks ago by Police Officer Edwards of the First precinct, accused of shoplifting, forfeited \$500 bond in the Police Court yesterday morning. The man was arraigned in court at the time of his arrest, and as he could not give an explanation of his conduct which was satisfactory to Judge Scott, he was held in bond for the action of the court.

Levere, it will be remembered, had in his possession at the time of his arrest a cleverly arranged trick box of unusual shape, in which the police found a handsome silk skirt stolen from the Palais Royal, and a belt stolen from a Pennsylvania Avenue furrier. The property was later identified and is now in the hands of the proprietor of the store from which it was stolen. The bond was furnished by a professional bondsman, who is supposed to have been released with cash by Levere.

Levere was taken in a hurry to leave the city, as he neglected to call at the detective bureau to claim a diamond pin valued at \$100, which was taken from him at the time he was arrested. It is believed that he was in Ohio as Joseph Dumas, and that he served a term in the penitentiary for shoplifting. Inspector Boardman is in receipt of a letter from Columbus, Ohio, containing a picture of a man, who is supposed to be the same as the man who was arrested at the scene of the robbery of the gallery in that city.

SEQUEL TO AN ELOPEMENT. Miss Mildred Yeager Files a Suit for Divorce.

St. Louis, Mo., July 14.—Mildred Yeager, daughter of former Congressman Frederick G. Niedringhaus, one of the wealthiest men in the city, filed a suit for divorce yesterday against Edward M. Yeager, charging desertion and non-support. The couple were married in 1889 in St. Paul, Minn. It was an elopement and the result of a romance which had its inception in Colorado where Miss Mildred was spending the summer. One day a gentleman called at the hotel at which she was stopping and was thrown from his horse. He was picked up unconscious and conveyed into the hotel where it was found that his leg had been broken. The lady's guests were very much aroused by the misfortune to the handsome man, who proved to be Edward M. Yeager. Miss Niedringhaus was especially interested in the patient and her ministrations were ever welcome to the pain-racked man. Cupid smiled and aided the young couple in their love-making. Yeager's interest in the lady was not won by her consent, but he was poor and Mr. Niedringhaus did not favor the match. An elopement followed.

The claim is based on a document which the claimant says she found in the trunk of a man who was a romance of mountain and plain.

THE CAUGHNAWAGA INDIANS. They Make an Extraordinary Claim for Lands in Vermont.

Montreal, July 14.—The Caughnawaga Indians of the reservation near this city have presented a claim through the chief, Knocks Wall, for the territory situated between the Union and Otter rivers, down the Lake Champlain district and including the city of Burlington and other towns in the Green Mountain State. The claim is based on a document made in 1802, when the chiefs representing the Abenaki tribe in council ceded to the Caughnawaga all their rights in the Vermont peninsula. A Canadian court has been retained to make a thorough investigation of the records in the United States. The Canadian Indians have already made formal application for possession of a reasonable compensation for the lands ceded to them.

THE WORK INTERRUPTED

The Relief Committee Organizes and Assigns Tasks.

The Inter-Ocean Building, in Ninth Street, Will Be Headquarters and There Contributions May Be Sent—Solicitors Appointed in Nearly All Government Bureaus—The Appeal.

The relief committee appointed at the mass meeting held in Masonic Temple Thursday night in the interests of the flood sufferers of Texas held a meeting yesterday afternoon at the Board of Trade. About twenty of the members were present and a number of others not included in the list. Commissioner Wight, Chairman of the committee, called the meeting to order. Capt. W. S. Scott was elected secretary and John Joy Edson treasurer.

The first step toward the organization of the work which is to be carried on in this city for the benefit of destitute Texas sufferers was then taken. A form of a letter was adopted requesting the permission of the Cabinet officers and heads of bureaus to allow subscriptions to be solicited in their departments.

It was stated that the Inter-Ocean building, in Ninth Street, between E and F Streets, northwest, which is now vacant, had been placed at the disposal of the committee by C. C. Duncan, to be used as headquarters for the relief work. William Terrell and John Joy Edson were appointed to make arrangements to have the blanks printed to facilitate the collecting of names and to have the forms for subscriptions uniform.

A request was extended to the local newspapers to open a subscription list in their columns and the following resolution was adopted by the subcommittee appointed for the purpose:

To the Citizens of the District of Columbia: The undersigned officers appointed by the Texas relief committee to solicit contributions from men and citizens generally of the District of Columbia for such subscriptions as in their discretion they may deem proper, do hereby request that you will contribute to the relief of the sufferers of Texas, and that you will be pleased to send your contributions to the Inter-Ocean Building, Ninth Street, between E and F Streets, northwest, Washington, D. C.

The names of C. M. Heller was placed on the general committee. Mr. Edson volunteered to make the necessary arrangements for the use of the Inter-Ocean building. A committee composed of H. W. Szegedy, Mr. Deltrich, and C. M. Heller was appointed to see the Commandant of the navy yard and make arrangements for the soliciting of subscriptions among the employes there. The permission has already been granted by Claude M. Johnson, Director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and work in that department was said to be progressing rapidly.

Caplain of the Watch R. R. Radford was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the work in the Bureau of Ordnance and Navy Departments. W. S. Scott was appointed to see the secretaries and make arrangements with regard to the so-called "hotels" of the Government. Other appointments for the same purpose were: William Low, in the Treasury Department; William Terrell, in the Sixth Auditor's office; M. M. Hart, in the Department of the Interior; Dr. Henry Hayes, in the Interior Department; Charles F. Tanchill, in the Pension Office; Mr. Deltrich, in the Printing Office; and Capt. W. S. Scott, in the Department of Agriculture. Mrs. Cooney and John Hyde were selected, and to work among the members of the Inter-Ocean Building, and the names of the members of the committee were: William Terrell, in the Sixth Auditor's office; M. M. Hart, in the Department of the Interior; Dr. Henry Hayes, in the Interior Department; Charles F. 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