# **GILBERT GAS FEES** ARE TAKEN UP BY SUPREME COURT

Looks Into \$118,000 Award for Having 80-Cent Rate Declared Confiscatory.

The United States Supreme Court has taken official cognizance of the \$118,000 compensation awarded Abraspecial master in the New York City gas coses. Mr. talbert was appointed to sit in these cases, and his compensation was fixed by his former law partner, Julius M. Mayer, now a United States Cremit Court Judge, here. Until a few months ago Mr. Mayer was a United States District Court Judge and thus had jurisdiction over the cases in which eight gas companies in the Consolidated system atticked the 80-cent that Law as con-

After a discussion between Assistant Attorney General Wither W. Chambers and members of the United States Supreme Court a few days ago, Mr. Chambers informed that tribunal he would move to have the question of Mr. Gilbert's compensation consolidated with the appeals taken by the State, city and county against the findings of Mr. Gilbert and Judge Mayer, that the rate was confiscatory.

In arguing on his brief for the State in the New York and Queens appeal, Mr. Clumbers called the attention of the Supreme Court to the fact that Mr. Gilbert, "the same master who sat in the Consolidated case argued before you two months ago, sat in this case and the question of the \$57,500 fee allowed him there, is coming up to this body on appenl."

"Why," interjected Justice Vandeventer, "I read in the papers that he got \$90,000."

"That is not all he got," replied the Attorney General. "That was the compensation in only four of the cases. In all eight he received a total compensation of \$118,000."

It was The Evening World that first reported the compensation awarded

Mr. Gilbert.
At this point Chief Justice l'aft
asked "Did these fees cover the same
period of time?"
"No," said Mr. Chambers. "Mr.
Gilbert started one case and then went
on to the next. It was a continuous
affair. The whole thing took about a
year and a half during which time year and a half, during which time Mr. Gilbert continued in his private

practice."
"There is a difference in the fee "There is a difference in the fee allowed for one special service and if he were employed continuously," remarked Justice Day, apparently referring to the custom of allowing larger compensation for doing a particular piece of work than if the man were on monthly or yearly salary.

Here Mr. Chambers called attention to court rulings that the fee of a master should not be higher than that of the highest paid Judge in the court which appointed him. The salary of a United States District Court Judge is \$7,500 a year.

"Would you expect the bar to agree to that?" asked Mr. Taft smiling.

"Perhaps rot." appeared Mr.

"Perhaps not," answered Mr. Chambers, "but the highest paid Judge in the New York district gets \$17,500 a year (a State Supreme Court Justice) and certainly the fees should not be higher than that."

"Have we any facts on the fees in these cases before us in the record," asked Justige Fitney.

"No, but we will be able to send the court certified copies of the orders. Shall I send them down?" asked Mr. Chambers.

"You may do as you feel advised," replied the Chief Justice, and then it was that Mr. Chambers declared he would do so and move to have the question of the fees consolidated with the original cases.

Both the city and the State, in

Both the city and the State, in their briefs to the court on evey case, have devoted fully as much space to the allegation they have not had a fair trial before the special master as to answering legal questions in

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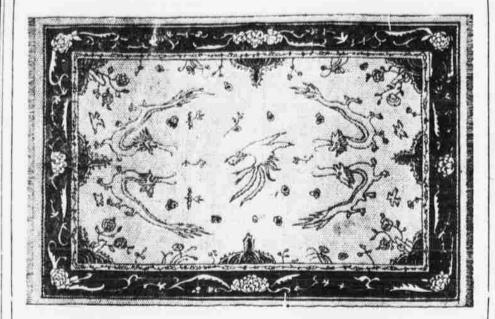
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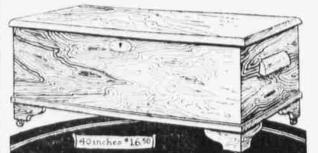
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		Price	Price		Price	Price
42x36 I	2x36 Inch - 46c		360			356
45x36 I	neh	- 49e	SSe		12 Yards Wide - 58c 45	
45x3814 I		- 55e	45e	13, Yards W		48
		4.6	49e		ide - 70e	52
7				2 4 Yards W		586
54x36 In	nen	- 65c	49c	212 Yards W	1de - 85c	65

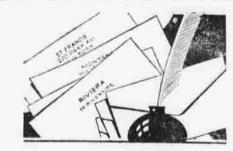
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