

# WISKEY RING HIT BY SEIZURE OF 5,780 QUARTS

### Local Revenue Agents Assert They Have 'Master Mind' Among Prisoners.

## CITY DETECTIVE TAKEN

### Alleged Band of 'Millionaire Bootleggers' Had 43d Street Warehouse.

## TIP CAME FROM CHICAGO

### Henry T. Semel, President of U. S. Distilling Co., Accused as Chief.

Local dry agents made yesterday what they assert is their biggest catch since the Volstead act went into effect a year ago. Into the dragnet fell one of the alleged "master minds" of the whiskey ring of his associates, a detective sergeant of the New York police and three other men charged with conspiracy to traffic in illicit liquor.

The so-called master mind, according to Frank L. Boyd, supervising prohibition agent, is Henry T. Semel, president of the United States Distilling Company, 358 West Forty-third street. This corporation was organized recently to remove bonded whiskey from Government warehouses for medicinal purposes. It held a permit for unlimited withdrawals under \$100,000 surety bonds.

About a week ago the enforcement bureau was tipped off that a gigantic bootlegging plot had headquarters in Forty-third street and branches throughout the city. It was said that the Chicago booze ring, recently exposed, had purchased quantities of bonded liquor from that source.

Following the sale of seven cases of Scotch whiskey for \$700, three revenue agents headed by Robert D. Murphy, raided Semel's place yesterday afternoon and confiscated 5,780 quarts of bonded liquor. This was only a drop in the bucket, they said, of the business the company had been doing.

Semel, Alfred Talle and Dan Peattie, the two last named officers of the United States Distilling Company, were arrested on charges of illegal sale and transportation of liquor under the Volstead act and conspiracy under the criminal code. They were arraigned before United States Commissioner Samuel M. Hitchcock and held in \$1,500 bail each for hearing.

**Detective in the Net.**  
Morris Grossman, a detective, first grade, attached to the East Sixty-seventh street police station, was arrested on charges of conspiracy to sell bonded liquor. He was arraigned before United States Attorney Robert A. Peattie. He was accused of conspiring to alter and force counterfeit permits to withdraw liquor from bonded cases, but was paroled in the custody of counsel pending arraignment this morning.

Mr. Peattie explained that the Government has been after Grossman for some time and has in its possession rubber stamps the detective is alleged to have made October 12 for use on bonded withdrawal permits. One of these, Mr. Peattie said, is marked "original," another "copy" and the third prints a serial number.

Max and Irving Worthman and Ferdinand Loeb were arrested on charges of misusing their liquor permits and conspiring to violate the Volstead act. They are charged with carrying 340 cases of whiskey from their premises at 1145 Second avenue. On bonds of \$1,000 each they were released pending hearing.

**Must Pay Fine.**  
Craig Loses Appeal in Contempt Action Over City Bonds.  
The Court of Appeals yesterday dismissed the appeal of Comptroller Charles L. Craig from the order of the Appellate Division in Brooklyn which affirmed the Comptroller's conviction of the Comptroller for contempt of court and fined him \$24.58. The Comptroller was adjudged in contempt for the issuance of city bonds in violation of a restraining order obtained from the Supreme Court against the Board of Estimate by William J. Scheffelin, chairman of the Citizens' Union.

# WIFE NO. 1 WINS \$200,000 FOR LOSS OF BROKER'S LOVE

### Mrs. H. L. Wilson No. 2 Fails to Oppose Entry of Verdict Here—Secret Texas Divorce and "Such a Darling Creature" Letter Figure in Case.

Mrs. Laura Cave Wilson, who is the daughter of Major Cave, a railroad builder of Dallas, Texas, and who lives at 309 West 109th street, won a verdict for \$200,000 damages yesterday before a jury in Sheriff Knott's court, in a suit charging alienation of affection. There was no defence interposed to her action against Mrs. Bertha Lobit Wilson, and the jurors readily awarded her the record amount.

The plaintiff testified that Hunter L. Wilson, an insurance broker, of Houston, Texas, married her in 1910 and lived with her until March, 1916. She said that he separated from her without repaying the \$35,000 she had lent to him to straighten out his financial affairs.

Subsequently Mrs. Laura Cave Wilson learned that her husband had obtained a secret divorce in Texas and had married Miss Bertha Lobit of Galveston, Texas, and was living with her in the Waldorf in this city.

Mrs. Wilson No. 1 hurried North and had a talk with her husband, she testified. He said her "darling fool lawyer" was to blame for not giving her notice of the divorce. The first wife received a number of letters meant for the second wife and retained possession of them. One of them congratulated the second wife on having married "such a darling creature."

The first Mrs. Wilson has sued her husband for divorce in Texas, naming his second wife as corespondent.

**SKIPPER TEN DAYS ON BRIDGE DURING STORM**  
Greek to Get Loving Cup for Bringing Vessel Here.

Capt. John Goulardis, master of the Greek liner Themistocles, in yesterday from Piraeus, will get a loving cup for the gallant way he brought the ship through a ten day storm that lasted until Sunday. He remained on the bridge until the fierce blow moderated, and by his assurances calmed timid passengers who thought the Themistocles was bound for Davy Jones.

**FINGER PRINTS PROVE DEAD MAN WAS CONVICT**  
Identity of Suicide Victim Is Found in Crime Files.

The police were convinced yesterday that "Charles Raymond," 38 years old, who committed suicide last Wednesday by inhaling gas in a furnished room at 306 Schermerhorn street, Brooklyn, is John Collins, aged and notorious convict, with a record of convictions for burglary, assault and larceny.

In a letter written just before death the man declared that Charles Raymond was a fictitious name. The police investigation of the case led them to the Bureau of Missing Persons. The records of the Bureau of Criminal Identification also were examined. There the police discovered that the finger prints of the dead man and John Collins, ex-convict, were similar. Collins' picture is in the Rogues Gallery.

**CHIEF LALLY LEFT \$20,000.**  
Deputy Fire Chief Lally, who died on October 14 at his home, 175 Adelphi street, Brooklyn, left his estate to his seven children, according to the will filed yesterday in the Surrogate's Court, Brooklyn. The estate is given as over \$20,000 in real and over \$10,000 personal property. A grandchild, Eleanor Sieba, gets \$500.

**WOMAN TEACHER EXONERATED**  
The discharge of Mrs. Fern Walton Wright, a teacher of Public School 27, who was accused of beating Elsie Rose, a crippled child, was recommended yesterday in Harlem Court by William O'Shaughnessy, Assistant District Attorney. Magistrate Simpson thereupon exonerated Mrs. Wright.

# GRAND JURY CALLS GEM ROBBERY FAKE

### Indicts Jeweller Schonfeld, Who Said He Lost \$100,000, on Perjury Charge.

Samuel Schonfeld, a jewel merchant of 71 Nassau street, who on June 5 said he had been robbed of \$100,000 worth of unset gems by two strangers who threw pepper into his eyes as he stooped before his open safe, was indicted yesterday by the Federal Grand Jury on charges of perjury and concealment of assets.

The jury believes that Schonfeld was not robbed at all but concocted the whole startling story in order to make his creditors think he was a ruined man. On June 9, four days after the supposed theft, Schonfeld went into involuntary bankruptcy. The stories that he and others told before United States Commissioners were placed before the Grand Jury, together with other evidence obtained by Federal agents.

Indictments Schonfeld was arraigned yesterday before Judge Rufus E. Foster in the United States District Court and held for trial in \$5,000 bail, which he gave.

Schonfeld was in business as the Schonfeld Manufacturing Company on the ninth floor of the Cookcroft Building, Nassau and John streets. On the morning of June 5 he sent his nephew, Joseph Schonfeld, out to have three diamonds set in a lavalliere. While Joe was gone the uncle set up a loud crying. Two of his employees, who rushed into the sales room from the workroom, and to the police and reporters who arrived later, the jeweler gave a narrative full of detail.

He described minutely two men, a short one and a tall one, who had called to buy diamonds for the lavalliere. He told how they made their selection, how he sent his nephew out to have the setting done and described the positions of the men as they sat waiting for the completion of the purchase. He said that one of the strangers spoke of possibly buying another diamond and caused him to reopen the office safe and take out again the leather wallet containing the treasures.

Then, said Schonfeld, one of the men dashed pepper into his face, blinding him, while the other beat him and kicked him in the stomach, after which they ran out of the place with the wallet.

Right after the supposed robbery Schonfeld's creditors surrounded him. Some of them filed the bankruptcy petition against him on June 9, and on June 22 he was adjudicated a bankrupt. In the bankruptcy proceedings before Commissioner Gilchrist and Referee Seamon Miller, Schonfeld established the examiners by the completeness of his recollection of the appearance of the two robbers. He even recalled that each of them wore what he called "half shoes."

It developed that he carried a burglary insurance of \$30,000. The trustee in bankruptcy, Arthur Y. Dalziel, was of course anxious to get this money for the benefit of the creditors in case there had really been a robbery.

Schonfeld, his nephew and several merchants with whom Schonfeld did business, were questioned exhaustively by Oscar A. Lewis, attorney for the trustee. Upon apparent conflict between the testimony obtained by Mr. Lewis and that offered before the Grand Jury, where Louis A. Schwartz, Assistant United States Attorney, managed the examination, the indictment is based.

The indictment has two counts. In the count which charges perjury it is said that no diamonds whatever were stolen from Schonfeld and that he knew his story to be false.

# SILK HOSE FAIL TO WIN THIS SCHOOL TEACHER

### Girl Has Unwelcome Suitor Placed Under Bond.

The gifts of silk stockings, theatre tickets and other tokens of affection which Henry J. McCallig, 38 years old, an accountant, of 609 Lexington avenue, bestowed upon Miss Henrietta Holbein, a public school teacher of 235 East Fifty-fifth street, failed to interest her, and according to her testimony in Yorkville court yesterday she became annoyed and sent back the gifts.

Miss Holbein caused McCallig's arrest when he established a post in front of the school and at her home and walked the beat in the hope of meeting her.

Miss Holbein charged that McCallig called her several times a day on the telephone and wrote her letters. Magistrate Schwab found McCallig guilty of disorderly conduct and put him under bond of \$50 to avoid Miss Holbein for six months.

# NAVY AIR CRUISERS OFF TO-DAY FOR HAVANA

### Each Will Carry Mails and Eleven Passengers.

Two big aeromarine navy cruisers, each carrying eleven passengers besides its crew, will start this afternoon on a 1,000 mile flight to Havana, according to an announcement made yesterday by Charles F. Redden, president of the Aeromarine Engineering and Sales Company of New York.

The two boats are the first of a fleet of six which are to inaugurate a passenger and mail air service between Key West, Fla., and Havana. They will start about 2:30 P. M. from the Hudson River in front of the Columbia Yacht Club at Eighty-sixth street.

There will be appropriate services by representatives of the Cuban Government and Post Office departments and a luncheon at the club before the start.

# WIDOW ASKS \$100,000 FROM SHONTS ESTATE

### Will Sue Executors for Sum Left to Repay Loan.

Mrs. Milla D. Shonts, widow of Theodore P. Shonts, one time head of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, filed notice yesterday in the Supreme Court of her intention to sue the executors of the estate for \$100,000. Mrs. Shonts left her in his will to repay her for money loaned. She declares that the executors and the Guaranty Trust Company as temporary administrator have rejected her claim for the money.

Mrs. Shonts is contesting her husband's will and the executors have declined to distribute his estate pending the contest. Her husband left his friend, Mrs. Amanda Thomas, the bulk of his estate. His widow alleges that he was unduly influenced by Mrs. Thomas at a time when he was incompetent to make a will.

# HANGED GIRL'S BODY FOUND UNDER TREE

### Two Youths Make Discovery in Clump of Woods Near West New Brighton.

With a heavy manila cord around the neck with a hangman's knot the body of a young woman about 24 years old was discovered last night in a clump of woods in West New Brighton, Staten Island.

The girl was well dressed and the Staten Island police were inclined to believe that she was of French extraction. An absence of bruises or rents in the clothing led them to believe that she might have hanged herself from the limb of a tree, and that the breaking of the cord had caused her to fall into the position in which she was found, but the darkness of the woods at the time the discovery was made was such that it was impossible to make a thorough investigation of the place.

This darkness and the thickness of the leaves about the spot where the girl lay also prevented the police from examining the body carefully, so that they could not state definitely last night whether or not there were any indications of a struggle having taken place.

The presence of the body was at first reported by two young men of West New Brighton, who had come upon it after dusk. They were Edward Schneider of 238 Pelton avenue and Raymond Schreiner of 25 Seneca avenue. They reported the matter to the police of West New Brighton police station.

When a force of policemen and detectives under Acting Captain Ernest Van Wagner went to the place with the young men darkness had set in and at first they could not find the spot, but after procuring lanterns and wandering about for more than two hours the officers discovered the body.

The girl's hair was light brown, her eyes blue, and she had weighed about 125 pounds. Her height was five feet five inches. She was sitting in a blue serge dress of good quality, rimmed with black and brown beads, a yellow satin undershirt over a white muslin undershirt, pink flannelletti bloomers, black silk openwork stockings, and brown oxford shoes. A white corduroy turban trimmed with black and white beads lay near the body.

From the fact that the body was not covered with leaves the police immediately inferred that the girl could not have laid there long. This was also the belief of Dr. George Mord, county medical examiner, who later looked at the body and said that in all probability the girl had not been there for more than about sixty hours. He thought that she had been dead for forty-eight hours at least. The spot where the body was found is about 300 feet from the nearest street or roadway and is on one of the highest points on Staten Island.

# FENNELLY 'SHAKEN UP,' QUILTS AFTER 29 YEARS

### Demoted Inspector Was a Close Friend of Enright's.

As an aftermath of the most recent shakeup in the Police Department Capt. William F. Fennelly, who was reduced from the rank of Inspector, submitted an application for retirement yesterday to Commissioner Enright.

Fennelly has been in the department nearly twenty-nine years, four more than are required for ordinary retirement.

Capt. Fennelly until the shakeup was considered one of Mr. Enright's closest friends in the department. He and the Commissioner were lieutenants together and were brought into closest contact as members of the Lieutenants Benevolent Association, of which Mr. Enright was president several years ago. When Mr. Enright became Commissioner he bestowed what favors he could on Fennelly. He elevated him to the rank of acting inspector on May 3, 1918, and a month later made him a full inspector.

When the police bills were pending before the Legislature a year ago it was then Inspector Fennelly that Commissioner Enright selected to represent the department in Albany. The police field games of the last two years were arranged by Fennelly.

Fennelly entered the department November 2, 1891, was made a sergeant February 3, 1897, and a lieutenant December 23, 1902. It was during the six succeeding years that he and Mr. Enright became fast friends. He was appointed a captain May 25, 1908.

# CAR SMASHED; STRIKE ON PIER

### Automobile Accident Delays Docking of Munson Liner.

The Shipping Board steamship Martha Washington, operated by the Munson Line, with ninety-three passengers from Buenos Aires and other ports of South America, docked in the midst of a longshoremen's strike at Hoboken yesterday and officials and clerks of the Munson forces handled the baggage and the ship's lines.

Longshoremen taken over from this borough refused to unload the ship when about four o'clock was on. The men quit work at noon yesterday when their demand for the reinstatement of a foreman was denied. The smashing of an automobile while being lowered into the hold of a ship caused the dismissal of the foreman.

# GAMBLERS TELL OF PAYMENTS.

### Nassau Grand Jury Gets Facts on Grafting Officials.

Charles R. Weeks, District Attorney of Nassau county, began to present yesterday to the Grand Jury at Mineola the evidence obtained in the John Doe proceedings against certain officials of Nassau county who are alleged to have accepted money to allow gamblers to operate in defiance of the law.

David Gideon, William H. Busted and John Shaughnessy, who were sentenced by Justice Townsend Seuder on Monday, were the principal witnesses examined. Three other persons were also before the Grand Jury. The examination of witnesses is expected to require a month.

# JEWELER IS HELD IN \$50,000 GEM THEFT

### Adolph Brenner Charged With Suspicion of Receiving Hare Valuables.

On the strength of information given by two alleged drug addicts confined in the Tombs, Adolph Brenner, a jeweler, of 117 West Sixteenth street, was arrested yesterday in connection with the \$50,000 jewel robbery in the home of Montgomery Hare, 309 East Sixty-fourth street, on June 2. Brenner, who has a store on Seventh avenue, near Portieth street, was taken into custody by Detective Deisher at the direction of the District Attorney's office and charged with suspicion of criminally receiving stolen property.

Arraigned before Magistrate Robert C. Ten Eyck in West Side Court, Brenner was held in \$15,000 bail for a hearing Monday. The police reported that they had not yet recovered the jewels alleged to have been purchased by Brenner, and they proposed asking for a court order to search the safe belonging to the defendant.

These developments in clearing up the Hare robbery started from revelations made by Harry Moppen, confined in the Tombs on another charge of burglary, and Frank Wolfson, another prisoner, reputed to be a drug addict, who, the police say, admits having stolen the Hare jewels. Moppen told Assistant District Attorney Edward Well that he had negotiated the sale of the stolen jewels to Brenner for \$75 for Wolfson. Upon later interrogation Wolfson corroborated Moppen's story, and said that he had received \$600 from Moppen, according to the police.

Mr. Well said Wolfson claimed that in the last three years he had stolen at least \$20,000 worth of goods, but had always been cheated in disposing of them. He said that Moppen was the only one who had treated him fairly, all others taking advantage of him because "they knew I was a dope fiend and I had to take anything they wanted to give me."

Wolfson, according to the police, told of committing the Hare robbery at a time when he saw Mrs. Hare leave the house. After a boy had delivered laundry, he said, he entered through the basement door, and hiding seven servants who were in the house, made his way to Mrs. Hare's room, where he noticed a secret panel in the wall partly open. He scooped up the jewels which were in this wall safe, he said, and escaped from the house without detection. Later he met Moppen, told him of the jewels he had stolen and Moppen offered to help dispose of them.

His stories of having participated in other robberies are being checked up. Wolfson denies the charge on which he was lodged in the Tombs, but has talked in detail of the Hare robbery, according to Mr. Well, and identified the "job" as his after he had visited the house with detectives and recalled the surroundings.

## A Frank Statement Regarding Price Reductions

The Packard Motor Car Company of New York believes that this is the time for a sincere, straight-forward statement of its position on the question of prices:

**First:** We are in entire accord with the public sentiment which favors a general price reduction on all commodities as a step toward normal living conditions, provided there are sound reasons for such reductions.

**Second:** We do not believe that normal conditions can be restored by hasty and drastic action on the part of manufacturers and distributors.

**Third:** We believe that to permanently affect price levels, all reductions, whether on motor vehicles or any other commodities, must be based on a reduction in costs.

**Fourth:** We are hopeful of a downward trend in manufacturing and selling costs. However, no one can today determine what economic changes will occur in the next six months. We believe that our customers should be protected during this period of uncertainty. Therefore,

The Packard Motor Car Company of New York guarantees to anyone who has purchased, or hereafter purchases from us, a new Packard vehicle (car or truck) at list price, and takes delivery between September 25, 1920, and June 30, 1921, a refund equal to the difference between the price paid by the purchaser and any new lower list price made during this period.

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