

**MAJORS OFFICIALS ARE UNDER CLOUD**

Life for New York's Public Servants One Continual Round of Trouble.

**GOTHAM MAYOR IN LEAD**

From McClellan Down, State and Municipal Salary-Grabbers Are Facing Trial on Indictment. Exceptions Only Prove Rule.

BY LLOYD F. LONERGAN.

NEW YORK, May 6 (Special).—The lives of most public officials in New York City and State have been one far from merry round of charges, hearings and indictments since the first of the year. It is really a remarkable record, and new additions to the list are being made almost daily. Here are some of the more prominent cases:

Mayor McClellan is fighting the recount proceedings, designed to oust him from office. He is accused of being a usurper, a fraud Mayor and various other things. He is keeping a score of lawyers busy in an attempt to disprove the claims of his antagonists. In addition to this, formal charges have been filed with the grand jury who possess the power of removal. In these it is declared that the Mayor has violated his oath of office by failure to enforce the excise laws on Sunday.

The second important officer in Greater New York is Comptroller Metz. Metz was called before the Grand Jury the other day to explain why he had removed a subordinate who voted against McClellan. The third city officer is President of the Board of Aldermen McGowan. Up to date he has carefully sidestepped trouble.

There are five boroughs in Greater New York, and each borough has a President. The smallest borough, Richmond, is the only one ruled by a Republican, and this official, George Cronwell, is the sole ruler who has kept out of political hot water.

**Ordered His Removal.**

The Mayor's Commissioners of Accounts investigated the office of President Ahearn of Manhattan. They reported the matter to Governor Hughes, who held an exhaustive inquiry and ordered the removal of Ahearn. The investigation, which was principally of omission, that caused him to order Ahearn's removal. Under our peculiar city charter, the Aldermen from the Borough of Manhattan filled the vacancy. On Murphy's order they re-elected Ahearn and laughed at the Governor.

President Louis Haffen of the Bronx is under fire of the Commissioners of Accounts now. He expresses indifference as to the result, believing that he holds the Bronx Aldermen in the hollow of his hand. The probability is that he is correct in his reasoning.

Borough President Bernal of Queens resigned the other day. He had been "presented" by the Grand Jury, for the Kissena Park scandal, and a Commissioner was appointed by the Governor to try him. Bernal fought on until he saw that further struggle was useless, especially as he has Tammany Leader Murphy against him.

No formal charges have been filed against Borough President Coles of Brooklyn, although his administration has been bitterly attacked by various newspapers. In addition, Comptroller Metz has publicly called the sprightly Bird, "a spy, a sneak and a traitor." These are not fighting words in little old New York.

District Attorney Jerome is now on trial before Commissioner Hand, acting for Governor Hughes, on the longest list of charges ever presented against a city or county official. From the general tenor of the investigation and the attitude of the trial judge, it is the common belief that the District Attorney will be a private citizen within a few months.

**Six Up for Bribery.**

Six members of the last Board of Aldermen are under indictments for accepting bribes. They were elected on the municipal ownership ticket, and the amount of money each is accused of accepting is small sum. It is expected that their trials will be called in a few weeks.

Deputy Attorney General Nathan Vi-daver is out on bail pending appearance before a jury. He accepted a roll of marked bills from the president of a defunct bank who wanted to reopen and thought he needed "assistance" with the Attorney General. Vidaver claims the cash was a retainer fee, he being a lawyer. But the Grand Jury returned an indictment.

The fact that the bulk of the hose used by the Fire Department is rotten, was only made known at an expensive blaze that cost several lives a few days later. Fire Commissioner Lantry resigned under a cloud. Although the hose was bought under the administration of his predecessor, John O'Brien, the latter, who is a close personal friend of the Mayor, is still in office.

He is now Commissioner of the Department of Gas, Electricity and Water Supply. Strangely enough the contractor who sold the condemned hose to the Fire Department is now a city official. His name is William Loughman and he is Mr. O'Brien's deputy. They are great friends.

Police Commissioner Bingham faces charges preferred against him and at present is the subject of inquiry by the Governor. He is accused of failure to enforce the excise law. Incidentally he is bitterly disliked by his subordinates. One reason is that at a banquet recently, he made a spiteful remark that forty of his captains would drop dead. There are 84 captains in the Department.

**Big Graft Hinted At.**

A city board has charge of the new \$300,000,000 Ashokan Dam project, designed to furnish the city a brand new water supply. Up to date it has principally been engaged in appointing "commissioners" to condemn land needed. Each of these commissioners draw \$50 a day and expenses for mighty little work. Sons and relatives of various political leaders have been appointed, and there is talk of graft in many contracts. Indications are that a Legislative investigation will be in order before long.

Coroners from this section of the state have always figured in the criminal news for some reason or other. Ex-Coroner Guy of Queens County went to the penitentiary the other day for 15 years. He murdered his wife, Coroner Acritella, indicted for fraud in the last election, had the case dismissed a week or two ago. It is not a month since Moses P. Jackson was arraigned in court convicted of accepting a bribe. Jackson was one of the "Reform Coroners" of New York County. Sentence was suspended because he is old, an invalid and penniless.

Brooklyn had a Coroner in the penitentiary a few years ago, E. B. Coombs. His colleague at that time was also indicted but escaped trial, and the matter was finally hushed up.

**CLAMOR FOR CASH**

Creditors Pursue District Attorney Ruick, of Idaho.

SAY HE WILL NOT PAY BILLS

Complaints From Tradesmen and Others Filed With Attorney-General and Even With President. Explanation Is Asked.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, May 6.—The outlawed debts of District Attorney Ruick, of Idaho, are annoying the Department of Justice. Lately Attorney-General Bonaparte has received several complaints from Idaho merchants to the effect that they have accounts against Ruick which they cannot collect; accounts which he flatly refuses to settle, because, as he says, they have been outlawed, and he is, therefore, not compelled to pay. Some of these complaints have reached the President, and by him have been referred to the Department of Justice.

Because of the persistency of Ruick's creditors, Attorney-General Bonaparte has found it necessary to take cognizance of the complaints, and it is understood that he has referred them to Ruick, with a request that he make an explanation. No action will be taken until his explanation is received. If Ruick were under civil service, the department would pay no attention to the complaints, for civil service regulations do not permit department heads to compel classified employes to pay their debts.

But Ruick is a Presidential appointee holding high office, and this rule does not apply, though it is stated at the Department of Justice that there is a strong disinclination on the part of the Attorney-General to act as an agent for merchants having claims against officials of his department. However, it may be necessary later to take action on these complaints.

The department feels it is indirectly injured by continuing in office a man of Ruick's prominence when he is held up to public gaze as one who will not satisfy his creditors.

It is not possible to learn how many complaints have been filed against Ruick, though it is understood they will come both from Boise and from Halley, his former home, and include bills, not only for clothing and supplies for himself and family, but for office rents, etc.

It is further understood that Ruick gave notes to some of his creditors, and when they became due declined to pay them, and also declined to renew them.

Philadelphia Record.

There seems to be no question that the wine-drinking nations as compared with the whisky-drinking nations are far more temperate. Thomas Jefferson declared as a result of his observation that "no nation is drunken where wine is cheap, and none sober where the drinker of wine substitutes ardent spirits as the common beverage." For this reason he advocated a low rate of duty on wines "as an antidote to the bane of whisky." In the same line of reasoning a caller at the White House, Chevalier Andrea Sharbo, told the President the other day that in the French and Italian armies, where light wine is a part of the regular ration, the yearly percentage of soldiers treated for drunkenness was less than one-eighth of 1 per cent. The Surgeon-General of the American Army reports that 30 out of every 1000 are treated for alcoholism.

Calcutta Statesman.

The boys of the Kishoreganj school football team recently refused to play for a cup on the ground that it was of foreign manufacture. As a result 12 of the head scholars are expelled.

New York.—George J. Gould says that the corner has been turned in the financial situation, that railroads will now be able to borrow money more easily and that popular criticism of railroads is dying down.

Question of Thirst-Quenchers.

India-for-the-Indians Cry.

Asks More for Crater Lake Park.

FLEET NEARS GOLDEN GATE

Hundreds Line Cliffs to Watch the Coming of the Battleships.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 5.—The Atlantic battleship fleet, which sailed from Santa Cruz this afternoon on the last leg of its long cruise, and which will enter the Golden Gate tomorrow at noon, was sighted tonight south of Point San Pedro, 29 miles below the entrance to the Bay of San Francisco.

The column was about six miles out at sea. The Connecticut passed off Point San Pedro at 9:15 o'clock.

In answer to a signal from the flagship, the searchlights ceased to play on the hills, and the fleet a little later, upon drawing near the Farallones, was hidden from view by a heavy mantle of fog, which rolled in from the sea.

Hundreds of people lined the ocean shore, from the Cliff House site south, to get their first glimpse of the fleet. The Ocean Shore Railroad ran a special train with excursionists to Point San Pedro, from where the searchlights played upon the clouds was seen long before the ships were sighted.

**PAVES WAY FOR SETTLEMENT**

Rio Grande Comes to Agreement With Part of Employees.

DENVER, Colo., May 5.—The first move toward a settlement of the Denver & Rio Grande shophen's strike was made at noon today, when the company made new

contracts with a committee representing the car repairers and inspectors. The contracts are effective from May 1 to December 31, 1908, and are practically the same as the contracts abrogated by the railroad company on March 15.

The contracts of the carmen were abrogated at the same time as were the contracts for the machinists, boiler-makers and blacksmiths, who are now on strike, and the new attitude of the company, as shown by today's action, opens the way for a settlement of the strike of all the forces.

Tom Grady to Be Promoted.

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**NEW PERFECTION Wick Blue Flame Oil Cook-Stove**

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