IT HAD GOOD EFFECT

Bankers' Pool Prevented a Crisis in Money Market.

FUND WAS NOT DRAWN UPON

Disposition to Attach Sinister Significance to It Unwarranted—Condition of New York Banks Strengthened.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—The stock market opened the past week with a threatening break in prices, which promised a return of the demoralized conditions of last week during the period of forced liquidation. The announcement was made on Monday of the formation of a "bankers' protective pool," the subscriptions to which amounted to $50,000,000. This sum was to be placed at the disposal of President Baker, of the First National Bank; President Stillman, of the National City Bank, and J. P. Morgan, as a committee, and to be liable for loans on call in case of an emergency in the money market. The liquidation in the money market was immediately checked and some recovery ensued. The effect of this measure was in some doubt for two days following, but it was ultimately the cause of restoring a large degree of confidence. Supplemented by other favorable factors, the result was to remove the general feeling of depression and to induce a rapid recovery in the stock market. This ensued without a dollar of the $50,000,000 fund being drawn upon. The knowledge of the existence of this reserve fund for contingencies served to induce freer offerings of funds from other sources and to unlock some resources that had been jealously guarded, either from timidity or from a desire to take advantage of higher rates which were quite generally expected to rule before the end of the year. Rates for money have steadily declined during the week, six months' loans being shaded to below 6 per cent, and the premium on loans for shorter periods has disappeared.

Upon the first announcement of the formation of this bankers' pool, there was some disposition to attach a sinister significance to it as a symptom of a more serious state of affairs in New York than had been generally expected. The measure does not differ in any kind or degree from those adopted at previous times of crises, except that heretofore these measures were in the hands of the clearing-house authorities, while in the present instance the management is confined to private hands. Inquiries poured into New York from all quarters as to the call for such important provisions. These seem to have met with satisfactory response, and the feeling of confidence grew that the year-end requirements would be met without trouble.

Besides the strong sentimental effect of the protective pool, the actual developments of the week tended to strengthen the condition of the banks. Receipts of currency were large from the interior, and the drain by the Subtreasury was much relaxed. Part of the Government requirements seem to have been drawn from other centers, and large pension payments at New York have relieved the banks. One of the most reassuring factors in the money situation has been the continued softness of the foreign exchange market, notwithstanding the easier tone of the local money market. This has been partly due to large supplies of grain bills, and it is hoped that the sharp break in the corn market will result in an increase in the takings for export and an additional replenishment of the exchange market. It is manifest that New York bankers have been able to negotiate additional loans in foreign markets, as well as to obtain extensions of maturing loans, which has been difficult to do for some time past.

London has been a moderate buyer of stocks in the New York market, and the proceeds of the sale abroad of the $10,000,000 issue of Pennsylvania Car Trust certificates have been available in the exchange market. A willingness on the part of the foreigners to make new investments in our securities, which they have conspicuously refrained from taking at the high level of prices recently prevailing, was a factor in providing means to settle the somewhat overstrained foreign credits.

An almost superstitious dread attached to the approach of December 17, the seventh anniversary of the so-called Venezuelan panic, due to President Cleveland's message to Congress on the boundary question. The passage of the anniversary on Wednesday without trouble undoubtedly prompted buying of stocks on the part of those whose fears had been aroused. Very large short lines were covered throughout the week, and this was a substantial aid to the recovery, especially in some speculative favorites where organized pools have directed a campaign against the shorts. Special factors have also helped some stocks, such as the absorption by the United States Steel Corporation of the Union Steel Company, the possible benefit to sugar from the recent reciprocity treaty, the better conditions in the copper trade, etc. Many rumors of other developments have also figured in the market. The fact is not lost sight of that heavy syndicate and other requirements remain to be met before the end of the year, but feeling is much more confident that the emergency has been adequately provided for.

There was not much significance to today's desultory trading in stocks, which was almost wholly in the hands of professional operators. Commission-houses reported a falling off in the recent renewed business. This market is disposed to take on an attitude of waiting after the week's covering movement, realizing that the money market still has heavy demands to meet, notwithstanding the feeling of greater confidence in its ability, as a result of the existence of the bankers' protective pool. The bank statement emphasizes the desirability of conservatism.

The stock market rallied sharply after the selling incident to the bank statement, and closed firm. A sudden spurt in Sugar to 129 helped the final rally. That stock had been strong throughout, apparently on the ground of the prospect of the adoption of the Cuban reciprocity treaty. There was also an animated speculation in Texas & Pacific, which rose to 47¼ and fell to 39⅝ under heavy offerings.

There was some investment demands for bonds, which were firmly held. The bond market moved in sympathy with stocks. United States new 4s declined ½ per cent, as compared with the closing call of last week.

BANK POSITION IS SOUND.

Favorable Showing Made by the Weekly Statement.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—The Financier this week says:

According to the estimates of known money movements in and out of New York last week, the banks gained over $500,000 in cash, but the bank statement of Saturday, compiled averages, showed a loss in cash of $1,762,100. This decrease, in so far as it affected surplus reserves, was offset in large part by a reduction of $5,875,200 in deposits, the excess reserve falling only $293,300, to $8,903,600, which is $2,000,000 above the total of a year ago. The decrease of $3,510,200 in loans is a belated record of the previous week's liquidation, as nothing of importance has occurred in the present market to indicate much of a change either way, so far as bank loans are concerned. The deposit decrease coincides with the loss in money and loan contraction and is thus accounted for. The total of loans is still in excess of deposits by $8,000,000, but when it is recalled that the National banks of New York alone have increased their capital and surplus within the past year by $41,000,000, this light excess of loans loses any importance that otherwise might attach to it. Speaking in general, the bank position for this season of the year is sound.

The early movement of money from the interior, noted in the previous week's statement, continues, the banks having gained from this source alone within six days over $2,000,000. There is every indication that this movement will be continued, although the activity of business at all centers and the changing conditions in the position of country banks may interfere with it to some extent. It is not to be overlooked that loans of banks outside of reserve cities have expanded in three years over $235,000,000, which is a larger increase than reported by the reserve centers themselves and this foreshadows a general demand for funds in what may be designated as country districts, and which may retard the flow of money to this and other important points. Still the metropolitan banks have never failed to gain heavily in cash with the beginning of each year, and the same experience is to be anticipated now.

The heavy dividend period now approaching may result in some shifting and disturbances in the market for a week or two, but these will be only temporary in character. The formation of the bankers' pool, the fall in exchange and the completed liquidation in the stock market lead to the logical conclusion that the money market for a few weeks at least will cease to be the center of absorbing interest in financial circles. With the gradual fall in interest rates, however, the exchange situation possibly will strengthen to the point where gold exports will have to be taken into consideration. Such exports are not regarded as an immediate factor.

The statement of averages of the clearing-house banks of this city for the week shows:

		Decrease.
Loans	$875,861,300	$3,510,200
Deposits	867,856,000	5,875,200
Circulation	45,615,700	*55,000
Legal tenders	68,079,000	*118,600
Specie	165,975,600	1,880,700
Reserve	226,057,600	1,762,100
Reserve required	218,964,000	1,468,800
Surplus	8,903,600	293,300
Ex-U. S. deposits	18,143,100	284,975

*Increase.

SYNDICATE PRUNE BUYING.

Combine Closes Operations With Total Purchase of 300 Carloads.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—(Special.)—A stronger undertone prevails in prunes. Purchases covering several thousand boxes of California 40s to 70s are reported for an interior market. The terms were private, but it is understood they were up to spot values for 40s to 60s, the 70s being shaded slightly. In a jobbing way goods move freely to distributers and sellers are not shading quotations. Spot 50s-60s sold to arrive today at 6¼c, this size being in light supply. Coast wires report that the syndicate has closed its operations with a total purchase of 300 carloads. The report is not officially confirmed. A wire late today still offers Santa Clara 60s-90s on a 2¾c bag basis. No. 40s-60s or 90s-80s are offered by holders.

Oregon prunes continue strong, with few round lots available. The last jobbing sales were at 7½c for 30s-40s and 6¼c for 40s-60s. Odd lots of 50s-60s sold at 5⅝c in 25-pound boxes.

A wire from Fresno today states that the Pacific Coast Seeded Raisin Company has advanced choice seeded in one-pound cartons to 7¼c and fancy to 7⅝c f. o. b., a rise of ⅛c a pound.

Salmon and beans are unchanged.

Hops closed dull and featureless. Quotations are: State, common to choice, 1902 crop, 29@37½c; 1901 crop, 24@26c; olds, 7@12½c; Pacific Coast, 1902 crop, 25@31c; 1901 crop, 23@26c; olds, 7@12½c.

Bank Clearings.

Bank clearings of the three principal cities of the Northwest for the week ending December 20 were as follows:

	Portland.	Seattle.	Tacoma.
Monday	$713,241	$733,774	$394,110
Tuesday	612,645	771,167	361,961
Wednesday	563,880	695,224	350,436
Thursday	601,500	604,764	362,800
Friday	607,969	617,351	402,125
Saturday	376,725	522,652	291,290
Totals	$3,476,960	$3,944,912	$2,162,702

Clearings for the corresponding week in former years were as follows:

	Portland.	Seattle.	Tacoma.
1897	$1,789,238	$970,933	$725,278
1898	1,862,000	1,336,831	736,255
1899	1,819,912	1,994,691	1,030,762
1900	2,466,696	2,094,454	1,180,467
1901	2,771,723	3,104,944	1,177,747

Clearings and balances for Saturday were as follows:

	Clearings.	Balances.
Portland	$376,725	$72,633
Seattle	522,652	109,635
Tacoma	291,290	47,671
Spokane	261,948	48,794

Imports and Exports.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Total imports of merchandise and dry goods at the Port of New York for this week were valued at $10,332,806.

Total exports of specie from this port to all countries for this week were $261,564 gold, and $891,400 silver.

Total exports of specie at the Port of New York for this week were $38,134 gold, and $63,394 silver.

Daily Treasury Statement.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Today's Treasury statement shows:

Available cash balances	$211,365,044
Gold	122,023,219

Transferred to New Orleans.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—A telegraphic transfer of $200,000 to New Orleans was made today by the Subtreasury.

Hops at London.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 20.—Hops at London—Pacific Coast, firm, £6 15s@£7.

POINT LOMA DOG.

(Continued from Page 17.)

greatest air of secrecy and veneration, saying:

"This is the man who sends us a check when we are in need, as he has power over the spirit and the flesh and money."

Mr. Fitch says further that Mrs. Tingley was a very hard worker, and that, although her official title was leader, she was frequently addressed as "Purple" by her official cabinet, and oftentimes as "P," and frequently as "Mother," until she requested that the latter be stopped. Mr. Fitch affirmed that to his own knowledge women members of the colony were employed at hard work in the gardens and fields. He also relates that Mrs. Tingley told him that her husband was a wealthy inventor, and that she frequently received a check for $5000 or more from him. Mrs. Tingley, Fitch says, was inclined to late rising. Her breakfast was invariably served in her room, very generous in quality and quantity.

The Wickedness of It.

Chicago News.

The Republican party has sold its honor for a certain sum. Now it must lift a far larger sum from the public treasury and bestow it on the thrifty shipowners, otherwise its honor in the future may not prove a merchantable commodity in time of need. You cannot do business with a trust and fail to meet your obligations when they fall due. The hour has struck. The lobbyists are on hand to see that the deal is consummated. The Fryes and the Grosvenors are preternaturally active. The party conscience is quieted as much as possible. What next? No subsidies! The whole thing is monstrous, unreasonable, dishonest. The Republican party has confessed that it realizes the wickedness that lurks in the measure by nursing it until after the election and now attempting to ram it through Congress in a hurry as the act of an expiring legislative body. It is a deed of dishonor. The party will be made to regret it.

PORT OF PORTLAND TAX

LEVY OF A MILL AND A HALF FOR NEXT YEAR.

Total Must Be Made Up to $125,000 From Other Sources—Chicago Tribune Must Pay Up.

The Port of Portland has made the usual tax levy of 1½ mills for the coming year, as required by law. This levy will produce $71,392 to run the port during the year. As the disbursements will be something like $125,000, the commission will have to look elsewhere for the means of paying the deficit. It is absolutely necessary to keep the river open, and the good work will not stop because of a shortage of funds.

The owners of the steamer Glenola have complained that their steamer has not been used as a tender to the new dredge. She was chartered for that purpose until the tender McCraken could be fitted for service, but has not been used, owing to high water. The matter was explained to the owners and the trouble satisfactorily settled.

The commission has instructed the clerk to inform the Chicago Tribune that it expects reimbursement for the useless expenditure caused by the carelessness of the manager of the paper. The Tribune recently sent word that it had lost the board's bond advertisement, and thereby compelled the board to readvertise; whereas, the "ad." had been printed properly. The port is out several hundred dollars on account of this mistake.

RUSHING WORK ON DOCKS.

Stevedore Gangs Will Put in a Full Day Today.

The near approach of the end of the month and year means fast work on some of the cargo vessels in port. In order to rush things, crews of 'longshoremen will be put at work on several docks today. The Allerton will continue discharging rails at the Oregon Water Power & Railway Company's dock, so as to be able to finish this week, after which her wheat cargo will be rushed aboard at Oceanic dock, and she will probably get away by the last of the month. The Sussex, loading lumber for Australia, moved from Inman, Paulsen & Co.'s mill down to Victoria dock, and will take cargo today. The Mindoro, at the North Pacific mills, will also load lumber today. The wheat ship Nesaia, at Oceanic dock, will have two crews at work aboard her tomorrow to enable her to complete her cargo by Tuesday.

DREDGE PUMP FOR GRANT.

Contract Let to a Baltimore Machine Company.

A contract for a $16,000-pump for the transport Grant, which will dredge the bar at the mouth of the Columbia, has been let to the Elliott Machine Company, of Baltimore. The pump will be similar to that now in use on Government dredges, with a diameter of 20 inches and a capacity of handling about 500 cubic yards of material an hour. The engineer officer at San Francisco has been authorized to issue the advertisements and award a contract for remodeling the Grant to make her suitable for dredge purposes. Much of her present fittings will be replaced by bins to receive the sand brought up by the pump. The Grant will be ready for service early next Summer.

MARINE ART GALLERY.

Decorating the Rooms of the Local Steamboat Inspectors.

Local United States Inspectors Edwards and Fuller are putting in their spare time these days decorating their quarters in the Federal building. In order to find places for the hundreds of pictures collected they have arranged frames around the walls, so that all sides of the room are now covered. Most of the pictures are of steamships, steamboats and other marine subjects, but some represent scenes outside their calling. One of the latest curios added to their museum is a Japanese fisherman's box that is 500 years old. It was sent to them by Captain Guthrie, assistant inspector of hulls at San Francisco. The box is a fine specimen of ancient lacquered work, and contains drawers for the fisherman's bait, tackle and lunch.

Umatilla in a Gale.

The steamer Umatilla was a day longer on her trip from Victoria to San Francisco than allowed by her schedule. The passage required 83 hours. Captain Cousins reported that when off Gray's Harbor a terrific southeasterly gale made it almost impossible for the Umatilla to keep her headway, and big waves were continually dashing over the vessel. Nets were placed over the bows to break the force of the waves, and further to offset the effects of the severe pounding of the huge bodies of water the steamer was slowed down. For nearly a day the rough sea and gale continued, but the Umatilla emerged unscathed and with nobody hurt.

Unloading the Sequoia.

The steam schooner Sequoia, which was disabled off the Columbia River while carrying a load of lumber from South Bend to San Francisco, and was towed into the river by a bar tug, was brought up to this city yesterday, and is lying at the foot of East Oak street. Her lumber is in a water-soaked condition, and is being unloaded on the dock there to dry while the steamer's pumps are kept going to keep the water down in her hold. When the cargo is discharged, the Sequoia will be moved up to Supple's yard for repairs.

Damaged Vessels Sold.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 20.—The damaged steamer Progreso, lying at the Fulton Iron Works wharf, has been sold to H. J. Rogers, the wrecker, for $12,200. He will attempt to recover all that is valuable in the vessel. James Tyson, the shipping man, has purchased the damaged Norwegian bark Andromeda, now at Honolulu, for $4100.

Change in Revenue Cutter Service.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 20.—First Lieutenant J. C. Cantwell, of the United States Revenue Service, has been assigned to the command of the cutters Golden Gate and Hartley, succeeding Captain W. H. Cushing.

Coal Steamer in Distress.

PORTLAND, Me., Dec. 20.—The steamer Monteka, of Duluth, coal-laden for Newport, Eng., from Boston, is reported to be in distress 900 miles off Halifax.

Marine Notes.

The Alsterthal, wheat-laden, left down yesterday, towed by the Ocklahama.

The Nantes has completed her wheat and barley cargo at the elevator and dropped into the stream.

The Foyledale, Lamoriciere and Herzogin Cecelie will arrive up from Astoria today.

Astoria Marine Notes.

ASTORIA, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—The American schooner Luzon cleared at the Custom-House today for San Pedro with 697,811 feet of lumber, loaded at Westport.

The steam schooner Robert Dollar cleared at the Custom-House today for San Pedro. She carries a cargo of 673,000 feet of lumber and 16,510 lineal feet of piling, loaded at Westport.

The French bark Daniel, which arrived in yesterday from San Diego, in tow of the Defiance, had pleasant weather all the way up the coast, and from Cape Mendocino there was a fair wind, and sail was used. Arriving off the bar, there was a southeast gale, and it took the tugs Defiance and Tatoosh eight hours to bring the vessel inside to an anchorage. While opposite Fort Stevens the mate of the Daniel thought that he would slack the anchor chain, the anchor being one that pulls into the hawse hole, and in doing so it got on a run, and the anchor, with 90 fathoms of chain, went to the bottom.

The British ship Madagascar met with another accident this afternoon that will delay her in port at least a week longer. The new parts for her windlass, to replace the ones broken several days ago, were put in position today. An attempt was made to raise the anchor, when another of the castings broke and the work will have to be done over again.

Domestic and Foreign Ports.

ASTORIA, Dec. 20.—Left up at 2:30 P. M.—French bark Lamoriciere and German ship Herzogin Cecelia. Arrived at 12:30 P. M. and left up at 1:30 P. M.—Steamer Alliance, from San Francisco. Sailed at 4 P. M.—Steamers Lakme and Robert Dollar, for San Pedro; schooner Virginia, for San Francisco. Condition of the bar at 4 P. M., moderate; wind southeast; weather cloudy.

St. Helens, Dec. 20.—Vessel anchored off Warrior Rock light at 7:30 P. M.

San Francisco, Dec. 20.—Sailed Dec. 19, at 7 P. M.—Steamer Despatch, for Portland.

New York, Dec. 20.—Arrived—Mongolian, from Glasgow.

Bremen, Dec. 20.—Sailed—Neckar, for New York.

New York, Dec. 20.—Sailed—Minnetonka, for London; Lucania, for Liverpool; Patricia, for Hamburg, via Plymouth and Cherbourg; Vaderland, for Antwerp; Noordam, for Boulogne and Rotterdam; Ethiopia, for Glasgow and Liverpool.

Havre, Dec. 20.—Sailed—La Champagne, for New York.

Antwerp, Dec. 20.—Sailed—Zeeland, for New York.

Liverpool, Dec. 20.—Sailed—Saxonia, for New York.

Moville, Dec. 20.—Sailed—Bavarian, from Liverpool, for Halifax and St. Johns, N. B.

Southampton, Dec. 20.—Sailed—Philadelphia, for New York.

Cherbourg, Dec. 20.—Arrived Dec. 19, 11 P. M.—Moltke, from New York, via Plymouth, for Hamburg, and proceeded. Sailed—Philadelphia, from Southampton for New York.

Queenstown, Dec. 20.—Arrived—Merleff, from Boston for Liverpool and proceeded.

Crookhaven, Dec. 20.—Passed—Umbria, from New York for Liverpool.

New York, Dec. 20.—Arrived—Cymric, from Liverpool.

Seattle, Dec. 20.—Arrived—Steamer Cottage City, from Skagway; steamer Umatilla, from San Francisco; steamer Montara, from San Francisco; German steamer Hermonthis, from Tacoma. Sailed—Steamer Queen, from San Francisco.

Plymouth, Dec. 20.—Arrived—Kronprinz Wilhelm, from New York.

New York, Dec. 20.—Arrived—La Savoie, from Havre.

Yokohama, Dec. 20.—Arrived previously—Hong Kong Maru, from San Francisco, via Honolulu, for Hong Kong.

San Francisco, Dec. 20.—Arrived—Schooner W. J. Patterson, from Tacoma; schooner Delnorte, from Rogue River; steamer Empire, from Coos Bay. Sailed—Steamer Tellus, for Ladysmith; steamer Santa Monica, for Gray's Harbor.

WILL MEN REFORM DRESS?

Mrs. Lord's Over-Sanguine Hopes for Return to "Jefferson" Styles.

Chicago Inter Ocean.

Mrs. D. M. Lord's suggestions as to reform in men's dress are in line with the views which have been expressed by lovers of the esthetic in all civilized countries during recent years.

The pendulum has swung to the extreme of plainness everywhere. So strong has been the tendency toward what are called modern styles that in Holland, in Germany, in Switzerland and in South America there is no longer any distinctive form of costume among the better classes. The business and professional men of Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Geneva, City of Mexico, Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Ayres dress today precisely like the business and professional men of London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburg, New York and Chicago.

Mrs. Lord is not radical or sweeping in her suggestions. She believes, perhaps, that if any great reform is to be brought about in masculine attire it must come by easy stages. At present, she thinks, the most desirable thing is a change in man's neckwear. She does not like the string tie, the bowknot, the butterfly or the four-in-hand.

"I can't believe," she said at the South Side Woman's Club, "there is a man living who is comfortable in a stiff bosom shirt and a high starched collar. And now, right here," she continued, "I would like to say that when my husband heard this bit of my paper criticising men's dress he breathed such a fervent 'amen' that I became hopeful for all mankind."

Of late years women have learned a great many things, and among the most useful of the things they have learned is how to be comfortable though well well dressed. Strange to say, it is the criticism of men, the ridicule of men, and the advice of men that have brought about reform in woman's dress.

Men, however, while directing their attention to woman and her clothing, have neglected to pay any attention to themselves. Many women now, as Mrs. Lord very truthfully declares, wear practical shoes, short skirts and shirt waists. They have discarded the tight corset, the hoopskirt and the disfiguring bustle. But look at men as Mrs. Lord looks at them, with their unventilated hats and their terrible stiff shirts! "They should wear negligee shirts in business hours and at dress affairs they could do no better than try to look as much as possible like Thomas Jefferson, who was always becomingly and beautifully arrayed."

If the average business and professional man of today would try to look as much as possible like Thomas Jefferson or John Adams, or John Quincy Adams, or James Madison, or like Clay, Randolph or Webster, he would certainly feel more comfortable. But braver than he who first ate an oyster or wore a stovepipe hat, or appeared in a clawhammer, must be the man in our day who will defy the conventionalities so far as to dress to suit himself.

Men will claim that they do not care what others may think of their attire, but there is not one man in ten thousand who would dare to come down to his office, his store or his factory in Chicago looking like Thomas Jefferson. Still, in the very nature of things, the time must come when men will discard the clothing that makes them uncomfortable.

A Druid Altar Excavated.

London Chronicle.

Mr. Bosshard, the well-known Swiss archaeologist, who has been carrying on excavations in the village of Choex, Canton of Valais, has discovered a beautiful Druidical altar made entirely of marble. The altar, facing toward the east, is at the extremity of a large underground amphitheater, where the crowd collected to view the human sacrifices. In the center is situated a huge stone statue of the god Thor, which is reached by a stone staircase. It was from the foot of this statue that the priests dealt out justice and taught the people. On each side of the god Thor there are four other statues in stone, representing minor divinities. The amphitheater is surrounded by chambers cut into the solid rocks, where the prisoners of war were confined prior to the sacrifice. Facing the stone slab is an immense fireplace, having closing doors and able to contain 10 persons at a time. It was here that the priests burned their victims.

Humanity's Queer Makeup.

London Leader.

Some statistical fiend has been contributing his studies of the human body to a French journal. In its normal condition, he says, the human body contains enough iron to make seven large-sized nails, sufficient fat for the supply of 13 pounds of candles, enough carbon to make 65 gross of lead pencils, and enough phosphorus for over 8000 wax vestas. Or, reducing to another state, the same man possesses the possibilities of supply of 98 cubic meters of gas, and sufficient hydrogen to inflate a balloon of a carrying power of 150 pounds.

POLICEMEN ON TRIAL

NEW YORK HAS A SPECIAL COURT FOR ITS GUARDIANS.

Captain Piper Hears All Sorts of Stories From His Men—He Is Very Strict, but Likes Humor of It.

If unfortunate lawbreakers want to get revenge on the policeman who arrests them they should drop into the courtroom at police headquarters some Thursday while erring "cops" are being placed on the rack before Deputy Commissioner Piper, says a writer in the New York Evening Sun. There's where the policeman comes before the bar of justice, as humble as the ordinary citizen who commits an offense. Judges may say that Captain Piper doesn't observe the strict legal formalities in this court, but Captain Piper can tell in an instant whether a policeman is juggling with the truth, and he knows how to draw out every feature of a case, even if he does admit hearsay testimony, which is forbidden by the laws governing evidence before civil and criminal jurists.

There is also a lesson here for the sociologists, likewise food for the student of types and the writer of fiction. Every trial day brings its stories of pathos and humor. There are witnesses who can't speak English and witnesses whose ideas of veracity are amusingly elastic. Captain Piper's rigid conception of discipline gives a military air to the court. He invariably calls the men by their last names. Policemen must appear before him in uniform, and if they are wise they will get shaved, use a whiskbroom on their clothing and have their shoes polished before coming to court. An aged captain who sent a sergeant before the commissioner on a last trial day in plain clothes was told never to do so again. The Deputy Commissioner had all this instilled in him at West Point, and he always has an eye to the relentless enforcement of rules and regulations.

No Use for Lawyers.

Culprits who have once appeared before Capt. Piper with a lawyer to defend them will never do so again. He is not fond of lawyers, and they find it out as soon as they have asked a witness a half dozen questions. The lawyer insists on answers in the form of "yes" or "no," while the Court insists that the witness be allowed to give testimony in his or her own way. When the lawyer has been overruled once or twice, if he is a diplomat and really has the interest of his client at heart, he will cease objecting and allow the trial to proceed in the customary way. Captain Piper's army training has taught him that to maintain discipline the charges brought by superior officers against those in the ranks must be upheld, unless it is a palpable case of persecution. With a civilian it is different. If he has charges against a policeman he must prove them and prove them conclusively. If there is a doubt the man on trial gets the benefit of it.

The trial room on the fourth floor of Police Headquarters is always pretty well filled on Thursday mornings long before 10 o'clock, the hour set for opening court. Captain Piper usually makes an unconscious stab at discipline by being five or ten minutes late. He rushes into the room with that quick, jerky step which every one about the Mulberry street building has learned to recognize a block away. He is a small man, nervous and wiry, and if there is anything that grates on him it is a policeman who talks slowly or does not raise his voice to an audible tone. The Deputy Commissioner takes his seat with Sergeant Johnny Russell within call. Russell is constantly with him on his midnight tours of inspection and on trial days. Some of the crowd so far forget themselves as to continue talking after the Commissioner enters. Bang goes the gavel.

"We must have order in here. If you want to talk go outside," says Captain Piper.

Made a Poor Attorney.

The first case is then called. On this occasion it is that of a patrolman from the Leonard-street station, who is accused of being off post when the roundsman paid him an unexpected visit. This policeman has been about Magistrates' Courts enough to get a smattering of the methods of lawyers in handling cases. He has an array of witnesses to prove that he went off post to disperse a blockade, and that it was the custom of men in his precinct to do this.

"Do you know the regulations about going off post?" asks the Deputy Commissioner.

"I have never been told anything about it over the desk."

"How long have you been on the force?"

"Six years."

"Well, it's time you were learning."

The policeman then asks to cross-examine the department's witnesses. He speaks out loudly and slyly winks at a friendly spectator when he thinks he has made a particularly clever point. The Commissioner is apparently not hearing a word. He is looking over a bunch of papers, perhaps investigating the man's record; but it is dollars to doughnuts that he is not losing a word of the testimony. The policeman becomes angered at the reply of a witness, and the two begin talking at once, like women in a neighborhood quarrel.

"Hold up, there," puts in the Commissioner. "The stenographer can't take testimony from both of you at the same time."

The lawyer policeman calls his first witness and proceeds to get into a tiff with him over a question of time.

"Now, you know, as a matter of fact, it was"—

"That'll do—ten days," and the Commissioner puts an end to the squabbling. The policeman goes out crestfallen and with his estimate of his legal ability greatly lessened.

Policeman Won't Swear.

The next case is also that of a policeman caught off post, but he is a unique character in the department, because he never takes the oath before going on the stand. It is against his religious principles, and the department humors him. The cause of this policeman furnishes a break in the usual order of things, because, after the first witness is sworn, the spectators unconsciously catch themselves trying to figure out what Captain Piper is saying when he administers the oath. They can follow him as far as "Do you solemnly"—but then it becomes a game of chance, with the odds in favor of the man who wagers that the other can't keep up. Some one wants to know how the religious policeman got all those scars that give a fantastic fresco appearance to his closely shaved head. Then an old-times relates his history. He has had a long career on the force, and is known among his comrades as a "terribly man with his stick." He never allows anyone to use profane language in his presence, as many a brother policeman has learned to his sorrow. They used to joke him and call him a fanatic, but he is a big, strapping fellow, and they reserve their comments now until he has passed beyond earshot. Once he was sent into a particularly tough neighborhood, where a gang of thieves had things pretty much their own way. The captain told him not to bring any of them into the station-house. He took the hint, and when he spied an assembly of roughs he waded in with his nightstick. His post was soon as orderly as upper Fifth avenue.

Here's a policeman who was caught coming out of a saloon. He has never been up before and seems frightened, but speaks firmly when the Commissioner asks him if he is guilty or not guilty.

"I am guilty, Your Honor," he says.

"Any statement in your behalf?"

"Yes, sir: my wife was sick and I went to the only fruit stand on my way past to get her some oranges. The keeper of the store couldn't change a $5 bill, and I went into the saloon to get it changed."

The Commissioner peers at him in that stern way which means that he is trying to differentiate between a lie and the truth. He evidently makes up his mind to the latter, and tempers justice with mercy by only reprimanding him.

All About a Dead Cat.

Then up come six big, strapping fellows in response to the call of their names. They look sheepish because they are there for allowing the body of a dead cat to lie in the street 24 hours without reporting it. All plead guilty.

"You've all come up like men," says the Commissioner, "and I'll only reprimand you instead of giving you half a day."

Next comes Sergeant Timms, the Shakespearean scholar of the department, to testify against a man. The sergeant has been dozing while awaiting the call of the case, and as he comes up, rubbing his eyes, some one wonders if he will find an opportunity to quote from his favorite author. He accuses the policeman from being absent at rollcall. The policeman says he went to sleep in a Turkish bathhouse and the manager failed to have him awakened.

"A Turkish bath is a pretty good thing to sober up on, but I'll only reprimand you this time," announces the Commissioner, and then he swings his gavel to stop the titter in the courtroom.

Now comes the educated policeman. He is a roundsman against whom a citizen has preferred a charge. The roundsman gives his testimony as a college president would dictate a letter to his stenographer. Once he makes a slip by referring to several "people" standing on the corner, but catches himself in time to change it to "persons." A German whose knowledge of English is sadly lacking is one of the main witnesses. He soon discovers that he is up against a stone wall in trying to testify in English, and gives it in pantomime. The only part the spectators can understand is when he says:

"I got too much sense yet to interfere mit a policeman."

In his second attempt to make out a case, which had been lamentably weak from the beginning, the complainant wrangles with a witness, and the Commissioner interrupts him.

"I have heard enough," he says. "Case dismissed."

The last cases are known as the "shoo-fly" cases, because the complaints are made by members of Captain Piper's personal staff. He has six roundsmen, and their principal duty is to catch policemen talking to citizens or to each other while on duty without proper cause. A lot of folks believe Captain Piper is improving the department in this respect. At the close of one of the cases he says:

"You men have got to stop this way of telling your troubles on the street corners. If you don't it will be the worse for you."

Doesn't Like Collectors.

The bill collector gets little consolation in Captain Piper's court. Many persons let policemen have goods on credit, with the firm expectation that if the policeman doesn't pay his bill charges can be brought against him which will compel him to do so. The other day there was an unusually large number of collectors in court, and after listening to the evidence Commissioner Piper said:

"You fellows give a policeman credit simply because he wears a uniform. Sometimes you don't live up to your agreements and sometimes he doesn't live up to his. I want to tell you that you are not going to make a collection agency of this court."

"Yes, your Honor," pleaded the lawyer for the creditor, "but we have this man's I O U for the money he borrowed and a judgment for the account."

"That's your funeral," responded the Commissioner, dryly, "not mine. I haven't anything to do with civil actions. That's for the magistrates. All I can tell you is to proceed by law to collect your bill."

"We did not come here for advice," snapped the lawyer, flaring up. "We know how to proceed."

"Well, that's all you'll get here," said Captain Piper, turning to the next case. "Take it or not, just as you choose."

Policeman's Big Rent Bill.

While scoring the collectors the Deputy Commissioner always inquires what the bill is for, and sometimes the policeman on trial gets a piece of advice in sharp, terse language, which he would do well to heed. It was alleged that one policeman owed a rent bill of something more than $200.

"How much a month did this man pay for a house?" asked the Commissioner of the collector.

"Seventy-five dollars, your honor," was the reply.

Every one in the courtroom laughed at the idea of a patrolman paying this much for a shelter, but Captain Piper did not stop until he had elicited the information that the policeman's wife rented rooms and helped pay the rent in this way. The patrolman said he had since left his wife and didn't think he was responsible for the rent. Another policeman was up because he had contracted a bill of $40 for wines, liquors, cigars, etc.

"You receive only $1400 a year, and yet you are able to run up an account like this for whisky and cigars?" asked the Commissioner sternly.

The policeman explained that a part of the debt was for borrowed money.

"Well, you had better read up the regulations on borrowing money and not come before me again," was the parting rebuke from the court.

If the testomony of one young patrolman is to be credited, some merchants set very inviting traps to catch the unwary cop. This policeman was accused of owing $85 for clothing which he had failed to pay.

"I'll tell you just how it was, your honor," said the policeman. "These people (meaning the merchants who had the bill against him) sent agents around to the station-house soliciting trade. They told the officers that they could go to the store and get anything they wanted and it would be all right as long as we paid as much as $5 a month. I went to the store and a clerk who could make anybody overreach himself got hold of me. I went only to get an overcoat, and when I left I had bought $85 worth. That clerk, your honor, is a hypnotist. Then I paid $5 for several months and the merchant refused to accept any more on the installment plan and brought this suit."

Piper Appreciates Humor.

Humor frequently creeps into the court proceedings. Captain Piper has a keen appreciation of it, and occasionally draws it out by the questions he puts to the witnesses. During a recent trial several witnesses testified that a policeman called a citizen "a knocker." Captain Piper asked every witness who so testified to define the meaning of "knocker."

"One who queers another's game," said one, while another witness thought a "knocker" was a "man who squealed." The last witness who replied to the question said he thought a "knocker" was one who "butted in." In another trial a policeman was accused of calling the complainant a "buffalo." Captain Piper wanted to know the meaning of "buffalo," but the witnesses couldn't enlighten him. And so the trials go on every Thursday. Captain Piper is more like a schoolmaster with a lot of overgrown pupils than anything else. If they lie to him he is severe, and if they are frank and speak the truth their punishment is lightened. Captain Piper puts a reward on truth as well as on faithful adherence to department regulations.

Morley for "the Literary Feller."

New York Evening Post.

At the dinner which was recently given him by the National Liberal Club, Mr. John Morley spoke up for the rights of "the literary feller" in politics. Referring to the toast offered by Mr. Birrell—also a Liberal and in public life—he said that he had never been able to understand why it was thought that a man who cared about books—cared to read them and possibly to write them—should not care about the affairs of his own country. The obligation of a man of letters to do his best to see that his nation is well governed is the same as that of every other man. The only difference is that the literary man often has greater powers to employ in the public service, and that his debt to the state is, therefore, only the greater. Knowledge of literature is or should be knowledge of life, of history, of past politics, and of the moral and political lessons which lie in the experience of the race. That ought not to be a bad equipment for a judgment of the present. It exposes its possessor, of course, to the charge of being a "doctrinaire," but in that sense a doctrinaire is only, as Mr. Morley happily insisted, "a man who believes that there is a relation between cause and effect, and that there is some difference between right and wrong."

Sir Hiram Maxim and the Mutoscope.

London Leader.

The unique value of the mutoscope as a recorder of living events was demonstrated during a recent visit of Sir Hiram and Lady Maxim to a Southern watering place. The story, as told by Sir Hiram himself, is, that at the conclusion of his visit he presented a check to the hotel proprietor in discharge of his hotel bell.

Hotel proprietors do not like checks from strangers, and generally make it a rule not to accept them. So Sir Hiram was politely informed that only cash could be taken in payment. "You see," said the proprietor, "I do not know that you really are Sir Hiram Maxim."

The famous inventor readily recognized the force of the argument, but said he had not sufficient money in his pocket to discharge the debt. It might have been an awkward position but for a happy thought that occurred to Lady Maxim.

She asked the proprietor to go on the pier, put a penny in the slot of a mutoscope, turn the handle, and he would then see a "living" picture of Sir Hiram firing a Maxim gun in the presence of the Shah of Persia. The hotel proprietor acted on this advice, and on returning admitted that the distinguished visitor was really Sir Hiram Maxim, and accepted the check with profuse apologies.

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