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TAMMANY AND McCLELLAN

Commissioner Bingham Busy With His Ax—Fifty-one Years Service Falls to Save Old "Johnny Dunn"—Wall Street Messenger Squeezes Millionaire.

NEW YORK, May 23.—These are sorrowful days for New York's police force, for since the passage of his bill Commissioner Bingham has been busily engaged in attempting to secure detectives who can detect and patrolmen who patrol. Political power and graft it is hoped, will at last be succeeded by efficiency. Of all the shifts and changes which have marked the recent shake up in the Police Department, but one may be said to have caused general and disinterested regret. That was the transfer of Lieutenant John J. Dunn from the head of the Wall Street branch of the Detective Bureau to desk duty in the little fishing village of Canarsie. Dunn is 75 years old, fifty-one years of which he has spent on the police force. Thirty years and more in Wall Street, and before that a sleuth connected with the main Detective Bureau at 300 Mulberry Street, he is one of New York's most famous personalities. Great secrets of Wall Street are hidden in the brain of "old Johnny Dunn," as he is familiarly called. He knew Jay Cooke, W. H. Vanderbilt, Jay Gould and Jim Fiske intimately in their day, and among the present generation of Wall Street financiers whom he counts as his friends, are J. Pierpont Morgan, Edward H. Harriman, H. W. Rogers, Thomas F. Ryan, James R. Keene, John W. Gates, and many others. For years his office has been in the old and new buildings of the stock exchange, whence he has directed the activities of the Wall Street squad against the hordes of crooks and cranks who venture to cross the "lead line" to prey upon the financial district either by force or cunning. Once before, when McAdoo was Commissioner of Police, there was a plan on foot to force Dunn to resign; but the big men in Wall Street whom he knew intimately, organized a parade and threatened to march upon headquarters in a body and demand his retention, if less spectacular means were not effective. This time, however, Commissioner Bingham has firmly decided that the time has come for him to retire. But old Johnny Dunn, equally determined to die in the harness which he has worn since 1850, has borrowed a uniform and accepted the transfer without a murmur.

In one Eddie Lewis, hitherto known to fame, Wall Street has a budding financier whose business acumen may one day fill the breach which will be left by the retirement of John W. Gates. At present "Eddie" is only a telegraph messenger whose frequent trips to the vicinity of Wall Street and Exchange Place have given him unlimited opportunities to observe things while juggling the humble vendors of lunch commodities who cater to the modest appetites of the curb brokers and their messengers. For a long time Eddie's own daily sandwich and glass of milk were purchased at a certain popular stand until he noticed that the taste of the brokers ran particularly to sardine sandwiches, and that the stock was never sufficient to meet the insistent demands. The next day was pulled off the only successful corner Wall Street has ever seen since the famous Northern Pacific coup. Before the lunch hour arrived, Eddie made his appearance with five of his comrades in uniform, and together they purchased 110 sardine sandwiches—the entire stock of the place. When the brokers appeared, hungry for sardine sandwiches, Eddie and his confederates stood on the sidewalk and offered to dispose of their holdings at double the usual price. In exactly fifteen minutes they had cleaned up their "corner," at a tidy profit snatched from under the very noses of the wise gentlemen who spend their waking hours in dreaming what they would do with a corner if they could get one.

Among the picturesque but unprofitable possessions of Father Knickerbocker which are passing away before the march of progress, are the various public markets owned by the city. Five years ago there were ten of these expensive relics of an earlier day, nine in Manhattan and one in Brooklyn. Within that time, however, three of them have been forced to give place to other and greater needs of the city, the

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- \$4 " " \$3
- \$3 " " \$2.40
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old Central Market becoming the site of the new Police Headquarters Building and the Clinton Market a storage ground for the Street Cleaning Department. The old Catherine Market was abandoned. Five of the remaining markets occupy remarkable structures in which stalls are rented out to hundreds of individuals dealer in produce of every sort, and the sixth, Gansevoort Market, is simply a vacant space occupying an entire block in one of the city's busiest districts, where the small truck farmers who cross the ferry from New Jersey in the early hours of the morning with wagons piled high with vegetables, pay a fee of twenty-five cents a day for each wagon. The ten acres of land now occupied by these markets are valued at something like \$5,000,000. They provide positions and salaries for a small army of politicians but the revenue which they produce in the way of rentals and fees dwindles to an insignificant sum after the expenses have been deducted. Now a movement is under way, backed by a number of West Side business men in the vicinity of Vesey and Washington streets, where the largest and most objectionable of these markets is located, for their complete abolition or sale to private interests which will make them a credit instead of a disgrace to the city.

The strange looking, near-white bird, with long, sharp beak and claws and curiously marked with tiger-like stripes, a puzzle to ornithologists generally, which for the past week has been hovering over that portion of the city which lies between City Hall and the Tamany wigwam, has at last been identified as the bird of political peace, somewhat the worse for wear. Ex-Judge Morgan J. O'Brien, "Big Tim" Sullivan, and Corporation Counsel Ellison, are endeavoring to lure it from the sky to a nest in City Hall Park with a new kind of bird food in the form of an agreement between Mayor McClellan and Boss Murphy which contains the apparently irreconcilable elements that the former is to remain unhampered in all the appointments and policies of his office while refraining from such as would indicate antagonism to the Tamany organization. The Police Commissioner's baton, it is said, has been named as the price of peace; for, say "practical men" what is the use

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of peace without perquisites, the special food of the symbolical bird. And perquisites have been mighty scarce and poor in flavor since the Bingham police bill was signed. The Commissioner, however, continues to watch the reform axe with a vigor which contains no hint of waning power, and "Big Tim," who always plays the game both ways from the middle, is industriously saying nothing. So most of the talking, which has a warlike sound, strangely reminiscent of Mr. Carnegie's famous gathering, is left to the Mayor, who reasserts the unalterableness of his own position, and his Corporation Counsel. "Peace with honor," he reiterates while Tamany sits tight and says nothing.

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