RETAILER LOSES EVEN WHEN FOOD IS IN OVERSUPPLY

Breaks in Market So Disorganizing That His Profits Are Swept Away.

Expected by His Customers to Keep His Selling Prices at a Standard Figure, Even if He Has to Sell His Goods at a Loss.

WHY RETAILER DOES NOT GAIN FROM MARKET GLUT

Customers expect prices always to be the same, whether the goods cost the retailer more or less than normal.

Delivery of produce, labor, rent, stationery and other charges cut down profits.

Quality of goods varies greatly in the same baskets, the best specimens being sold at a normal price and the inferior specimens at a loss.

Goods must be replaced when customers complain.

Wholesalers' speculations put prices at arbitrary figures when dealers get "corners."

Shipments contain poor goods which should never have left the farm.

The housewife said she couldn't get vegetables and fruits more cheaply even in times of a glut in the market, such as the city experienced so strikingly the other day. She was inclined to think the retailers should have lowered prices. The retailer was asked today why he didn't lower prices, when the cost of produce went down.

He said that such breaks in the market were so disorganizing that in the downsweep of prices his profits were swept away. And what was more, he said that these fluctuations, in what he has to pay for produce, which the public hears of only once in a while, were, in a less exaggerated way, his daily experience, and that he was expected by his customers to keep his selling price at a standard figure even if he had to sell at a loss.

"That is the great big problem of the retail men," he said. "We have to sell things as cheaply as possible whether we are getting them cheap or dear. If you came in here yesterday and got a quarter-peck of string beans for 5 cents, and come today and I ask you 8 cents, you're going to kick, and I've got to let you have it for 5 cents in the long run."

A TYPICAL DEALER

It was a typical dealer who spoke, John Wolf, who has a market on 19th street near Locust. Rich and poor live near there, all kinds of people, and therefore the prices are pretty well standardized. Also, it is central and an old stand with experienced management.

"You speak of this glut. Well, I thought I'd get some of this cheap stuff, now going to waste. Call it charity. I took 75 baskets of tomatoes, paying only for the packing and hauling; and for each basket we must put down 5 cents, remember. I figured on some of it going for, say, 10 cents a basket. What happened was that we were soon marking it 'Take all you please for 5 cents.' And when that didn't get it out of the way we gave it away. So you see where we get off in the glut.

"People want the best stuff, and they don't want anything else. Very well. Take a basket of tomatoes. Are all the tomatoes the same quality? Not a bit of it. They range all the way from tomatoes worth 15 cents to tomatoes worth 75 cents. Take that basket there. Look at this one and that one; any woman that knows a tomato won't pick out those, will she? So what it will boil down to is that I will be lucky to get 75 cents on it, if I get that. I will be lucky to get two good half-pecks out of it. The first half-peck, say, picked carefully by the purchaser, will bring a normal price. So, maybe, with the second. And the other two half-pecks may be at a loss; perhaps enough of a loss to cut down the 10 cents profit to 5 on the basket."

"But that only accounts for four half-pecks to the basket," it was suggested. "Isn't a basket five-eighths of a bushel, and so isn't it two and a half pecks five half-pecks?"

WORKS DOWN TO TWO PECKS.

"It works out to less than that," he said. "If the basket was always packed full, with something close fitting like grain and we could sell at exact measure, there would be just five half-pecks. But when it comes to things that lump up, like tomatoes or potatoes and shipped with not a particularly generous measure, and sold always, of course, with generous measure, as people naturally want it, then it comes to not much over two pecks.

"There are some things that are almost always sold at a loss. Take lettuce. I paid $1.50 for this crate of 24 heads of lettuce. I don't know what they cost the wholesaler, but I've heard that it's something like a cent a head. At least 12 of these 24 came to me in inferior condition. A really first-class head ought to sell for 10 cents. But they go for 5 cents, most of these, and some of them won't sell at all. You can figure out the steady loss we have to suffer. But the wholesaler's profit is sure and very large; our loss enormous in lettuce.

"And can we refuse to buy the lettuce? No, we can't say we don't keep it when people ask for it."

"But say you could make 10 to 15 cents on the basket in other produce, would that be a fair profit?"

"Ah, but that is not counting the cost of putting the goods into the hands of the customers. You may say, if you like, that it wasn't hard on us to lose a dollar on every sheep and lamb we turned over in the week. But it was more than a dollar lost. There was the wages of the meat cutter. Good meat cutters get from $18 to $20 a week. Employes in general get from $15 to $20 a week, and people want to be waited on in a hurry. They don't want to stand about and wait to be waited on. Then there is the auto for delivery. An auto looks big to some people, looks as thought we had money to spend. But an auto is cheaper than a wagon. The wagon costs us $300, the horse $250, the harness $45—that is $595 in all. The auto costs $600, but is cheaper to keep up. Then there is the wages of a chauffeur, $15 a week, and nearly as much as a wagon driver. These are things we have to have to deliver goods, and they cost money and must be taken out of the profit. Then there is stationery, bookkeeping, in addition to all the labor and cost of delivery, to say nothing of outright losses on poor goods being shipped (mixed up with the good), and which can't be sold.

"Now, just lately there is a new way in which my profits are cut. Say I pay 75 cents for a basket of potatoes; say I sell them for 5 cents a quarter-peck. Say I put 40 cents a peck for selected potatoes. That looks like a 15-cent profit; but it's not. That basket is sold in from 7 to 10 separate sales—not in one lump, as I get it. That means the cost of labor in making these sales. Perhaps it will come to only 3 cents apparent profit on each basket. But the baskets; they cost 5 cents apiece. I have to put that down, to have refunded when I return them.

LOSS IN THE RETURN.

"But I can't take them back right away. They tell me I should wait 'til I have enough empty baskets before I bring them back, and then they offer only 4 cents apiece, and the broken baskets they won't pay for at all. When that happens five times, I've paid for the wholesaler's basket and have nothing to show for it. And not only that, but I have also let him have that capital, bringing me no return, while I am collecting empty baskets. So you see how the 2 or 1½-cent profit per sale has been shaved down by labor and basket loss.

"But no, we retailers are blamed for everything. Yet we take all the risks. Not only risks, but take the actual loss in having to replace goods that are reported to us as being bad. Say I pay $4.60 for oranges and sell that lot at $4.75. Three and a third per cent. profit? Not a bit of it. There will be oranges that we will get called up on the phone about, and we replace them, though the fault is not ours.

SOMETHING RADICALLY WRONG.

"There is something radically wrong with the system of wholesale distribution. I should think there might be good farmers' associations formed. The goods should be brought direct from the farmer to our pavement. And there should be some way of fixing the prices, for the sake of the farmer, for the sake of the retailer and for the sake of the customer. The customer wants the prices to be always the same. Well, then let the farmer and the retailer have their costs always the same, as much as that can be done. They seem to have done something of this sort in eggs. Why not in everything?

"I'm not blaming the farmers, but they are shortsighted in not trying to standardize their kind of goods in their shipments. Take a thing like corn. Often I split even on a basket, with no profit. Say I paid 85 cents the basket.

"There will be 42 ears to the basket. Of these aboout 24 may be good ones. The rest have to be got rid of at the rate of $1 for the hundred. Suppose I got 30 or 35 cents a dozen for the good ears. You see, there would be no profit on the basket. Of course, corn is cheaper than that now—20 to 25 cents.

"Remember, that retailers have to face corners in the market, too. Suppose there are only four cars of peaches, and one man owns them all. You can see how we have to pay big prices for them; but we are expected to sell them just as cheaply as when peaches are in greater supply. There is speculation among the wholesalers, from place to place. A man has a lot of peaches. "Give you $1 for them,' says his neighbor; and he gets them all. Then he sells them for $1.25, and, perhaps, they change hands again, at $1.50 and $1.75 before they come to us. Who makes the profit?"

Professor Laird Chosen Adviser

Professor Warren P. Laird, of this city, head of the architectural department of the Towne Scientific School, of the University of Pennsylvania, was selected adviser today of the Pennsylvania Meade Monument Commission at Harrisburg. The commission was created by the Legislature to have charge of the erection of a monument to the hero of Gettysburg at Washington, D. C. A sculptor will be chosen early in the fall. In the meantime Professor Laird will attempt to procure a site.

118 BABIES DIE IN WEEK FROM HEAT

Total Number of Deaths During Same Period Is 508, Report Shows.

Of 508 deaths recorded in this city during the week ending today, 118 were babies less than 1 year of age and 23 were babies between 1 and 2 years old. The high percentage of infant mortality is attributed by health authorities to excessive heat of last week.

Although only seven adult and four infant deaths are attributed directly to the heat in the weekly report of the Bureau of Health, the indirect influence is seen in the large number of babies dying from summer complaint.

The total deaths this week exceeded those of last week by 64, and those of the corresponding week of August, 1914, by 5. The causes of death according to the health report were as follows:

Typhoid fever	1	Diarrhea and enteritis	82
Measles	2	Appendicitis and typhlitis	8
Whooping cough	2	Hernia, intestinal obstruction	7
Diphtheria and croup	1	Cirrhosis of liver	5
Cholera nostras	2	Acute nephritis and Bright's disease	42
Other epidemic diseases	53	Noncancerous tumors and diseases of genital organs	8
Tuberculosis of lungs	2	Puerperal septicemia	2
Tuberculosis meningitis	8	Puerperal accidents	3
Forms of tuberculosis	29	Congenital debility and malformations	32
Cancer and malignant tumors	13	Old age	3
Apoplexy and softening of brain	31	Effects of heat	11
Organic diseases of heart	2	Homicide	2
Chronic bronchitis	2	Violent deaths	21
Pneumonia	6	Other diseases	75
Bronchopneumonia	8	Coroner's cases pending	2
Diseases of respiratory system	2		
Diseases of the stomach	7	Total	508

BRIDGE CONTRACTS AWARDED

Two City Structures Will Be Built From Steel and Concrete.

Director Cooke, of the Department of Public Works, awarded contracts today for the building of two steel and concrete bridges. The first is to continue Whitby avenue over the Philadelphia and Baltimore Central Railroad and was awarded to F. S. Boas for $40,000. The other is on the line of Front street and spans the roadway of the Philadelphia Hospital for Contagious Diseases. It was awarded to the Philadelphia Paving Company for $12,000.

A contract for test borings was awarded to the T. B. Harper Company for $1200.

Wills Admitted to Probate

The following wills were admitted to probate today:

Robert Briggs, 1700 South 13th street, $28,000; Gilbert H. Slaight, Bossville, N. Y., $24,560; Henrietta A. Hassinger, 2730 North 8th street, $15,000, and Sarah Harkins, Upland, Pa., $2800.

GEN. MAURICE SERRAIL
New commander of the French forces at the Dardanelles, succeeding General Gouraud.

NAVY YARD PREPARING FOR TENNESSEE SAILING

Island Hive of Activity in Preparation for Dispatch of 800 Men to Haiti.

The Philadelphia navyyard is a hive of activity today.

Supplies are being quickly assembled for transporting 800 marines and a field commander to Haiti, late Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning, to strengthen the expeditionary forces there under Rear Admiral Caperton.

The armored cruiser Tennessee, which will carry the men, is now coaling and receiving a few minor repairs at the Brooklyn navyyard, and will arrive at the Philadelphia navyyard on Sunday.

Lieutenant Colonel L. W. T. Waller will be in command of the marines and upon his arrival at Haiti will assume charge of all the land forces, succeeding Lieutenant Colonel Cole. His staff will be composed of Major McGill, adjutant, and Lieutenant Osterman, aid.

Colonel T. P. Kane has been ordered from the War College at Washington to assume charge of the 1st Regiment, known as the advance base regiment, at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. This regiment, composed of 270 marines, is all that is left to guard the yard and the warships stationed there.

Seventy-five marines from Norfolk arrived at the yard today, and 25 more reported from the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The second company of the first regiment, known as the "mining company," which has been in camp at Love's Point, Md., for summer maneuvers, has been ordered to return, and is expected to arrive tonight or early tomorrow morning.

From the extent of the preparations, the general belief is that the men are in for a long campaign, and many of them believe that after the trouble in Haiti is settled they will be sent into Mexico.

Materials for bridge building, barbed wire, 40 machine guns, 7000 yards of submarine cable, narrow-gauge railroad tracks, great cases of rifles, ammunition and canned-food supplies are already piled on the dock ready to be placed aboard the Tennessee on her arrival.

The exact destination of the Tennessee was not revealed in the hurried orders from Washington yesterday. It is believed, however, that it will proceed direct to Port au Prince, the centre of the revolution in Haiti.

When the marines under Lieutenant Colonel Waller land at Haiti the United States will have a fighting force of almost 1900 men on the island, including a battalion of 300 bluejackets.

Boy Dies Trying to Save Brother

"He met death in an endeavor to save the life of his brother."

This tribute, unusual in the procedure of the Coroner's Court, was today incorporated in the official report of the inquest over the death of nine-year-old Louis Sontag, of 2634 Oxford street, who died a hero while trying to rescue his seven-year-old brother William, who also was drowned. The brothers were chasing butterflies on the west bank of the Schuylkill River at the Fairmount lock, when William fell into the swollen river. Louis plunged in after him without hesitation, and the yellow waters closed over both of them.

CALEDONIANS TO SEE FAST FIVE-MILE RACE

Famous Professionals of Philadelphia and Other Clubs at 56th Outing.

One of the greatest fields of distance runners ever seen in this city will toe the mark this afternoon in the five-mile professional race at the 56th annual Scottish games of the Caledonian Club, at Point Breeze Park. The stars include Jimmy Lee and Eddie MacGuire, famous Boston distance men; Abbie Woods, of England; Jimmy Fitzgerald, of Australia, and Johnnie Gallagher, famous track man of this city, who will become a professional. Henri St. Yves, the Frenchman that won the $10,000 Derby at New York some years ago, also will be a starter.

Every feature of the celebration will represent the traditions and customs of the "Land of the Heather." There will be Scotch games and Scotch dancing, and the music will be furnished by a band of bagpipers. Even the food will be prepared by cooks whose training was procured in the kitchens of Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The program of games started at 1 o'clock.

Walter Scott, of New York, prominent in Scotch-American activities, has offered five gold medals for the winners of various contests. They will be awarded to the best performer on the bagpipe, to the woman scoring the greatest number of points in the broadsword dance and highland fling, to the girl who attains the same record, to the man who wears the best full highland costume and to the boy who gives the best exhibition of **dancing.**

At 5 o'clock there will be an association football match. The Bethlehem team, national champions, will compete with the pick of Philadelphia.

The Committee on Arrangements includes Alexander Graham, Adam Simpson, Joseph Ferguson, Alexander Tulloch, Alexander Nicol, P. W. Malcolm, Duncan Carmichael, George Plenderleith, David Patterson, Robert Glichrist, John Masterson, William Morgan, William Morton and John Gould.

WOMAN DYING FROM A KICK IN STOMACH

Police Accuse Man of Causing Fatal Injury to 70-Year-Old Neighbor.

A 70-year-old woman is dying at the Woman's Homeopathic Hospital as the result of being kicked, the police say, by George Daniels, 2524 Oakdale street. She is Mrs. Mary Coleman, 2530 Oakdale street.

Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. Daniels and the latter's daughter, Mrs. Bella Geiger, got into an argument in the rear of Mrs. Coleman's home today, according to the neighbors. Several other relatives and friends of each side became interested and finally the women began to exchange blows.

While the struggle was at its height Daniels is said to have jumped the fence separating two houses and kicked the aged woman in the stomach. She fell to the ground and when a bluecoat reached the scene she was unconscious. Physicians say she cannot recover.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniels were arrested and will have a hearing at City Hall.

MACHINISTS THREATEN STRIKE

Metal Workers' Union to Wait Month for 8-Hour Day.

Machinists engaged in making of war munitions in shops in this city and vicinity have said that they are prepared to strike unless employers grant their demands for an 8-hour day and a minimum wage of $4. Members of the Metal Workers' Union met in the Parkway Building last night and ratified this program. They selected September 1 as the date when their threat will become effective. A letter from John J. Keppler, who promoted the Bridgeport strike, was read to the members. He commended their stand and indorsed the campaign.

It was announced that the Remington Arms Company has promised machinists an eight-hour day and a $4 minimum daily wage at its Eddystone plant.

MAN CUTS ARTERIES, THEN HANGS HIMSELF IN HOTEL

Baltimorean Takes Triple Precautions to Commit Suicide.

Triple precautions to end his life were taken today by Paul Band when he decided to commit suicide in his room in the Hotel Kernan, at 15th and Filbert streets. He opened the arteries in his wrists and ankles, turned on the gas and then hanged himself by his belt to the gas jet. A bell boy who detected the odor of gas discovered Band's body.

The dead man was about 30 years old. He registered at the hotel yesterday from Baltimore, paying his room rent for two days. There was nothing in the room or his pockets to serve as a further clue to his identity. Sixty cents in change was found in his pockets.

A nail file lying on the floor revealed how Band had opened his arteries. It is believed that after he had started to bleed from these injuries he opened the gas jet and then climbed on a washstand directly under the bracket. Despite the pain from his wounds he placed his head in a noose formed by tying his belt over the arm of the bracket and allowed his body to swing out.

Policeman Harold, of the 15th and Vine streets station, and Reserve Policeman Shower took charge of the body.

Conductor Killed by His Own Train

ALTOONA, Pa., Aug. 7.—John McGregor, a conductor in the Pennsylvania yards here, fell under his train this morning and had both legs cut off at the hips and died on the way to the hospital.

BUSINESS MEN TO BOOM MOORE FOR MAYOR

Kensingtonians to Organize Chain of Clubs for Support of Congressman.

Political circles heard an echo from the Kensington Board of Trade's testimonial dinner to Congressman J. Hampton Moore today, when it was announced that the business men of the Kensington district will father a movement to give the Republican nomination for Mayor to Mr. Moore, as "the business men's candidate."

A. C. Keeley, president of the Kensington Board of Trade, who was toastmaster at the dinner, said that plans are being perfected for a chain of business men's clubs throughout the city to urge the candidacy of Mr. Moore. The movement, he said, was not a Board of Trade affair, but was spontaneous on the part of the business men of Kensington and followed a conference with several prominent manufacturers and business men in other sections of the city.

"We believe that Mr. Moore is the proper candidate for the business men to indorse and have consulted with others outside of Kensington who are in accord with us," he said.

"This movement will be in the form of an individual appeal from one business man to another and we plan to form a chain of business men's clubs throughout the city to further the candidacy of the man of our choice. The movement is spontaneous among business men throughout the city.

"Mr. Moore has not given us his complete sanction of the movement, but we will lay our case before him next Tuesday and appeal to him to announce his candidacy as the business man's candidate. We feel sure he will answer the call."

Mr. Keeley said that there were many business men identified with the movement, including Robert McNeil, William Weir, Jr., and James Johnson.

FIFTEEN BRAVE WAR ZONE

Large Number of Philadelphians Leave for Liverpool on the St. Louis.

Fifteen Philadelphians braved the dangers of the War Zone and submarine warfare today when they embarked at New York on the American Line steamship St. Louis, for Liverpool. The ship will probably avoid the dangerous Irish Sea route, and will make a detour around the northern coast of Ireland.

Those from this city having reservations on the steamer are:

E. J. White	Mrs. Harriet Hawley
Mrs. Blanche Ker	Miss Julie G. Conway
Master Alan Ker	Arthur Henry Lynn
Miss Mary Ker	W. H. Randall
Miss Carroll Dempster	T. W. Mantell
Miss Annie Watt	J. F. Corby
Miss Caroline J. Milne	Mrs. Thomas Dunlop
Miss Ellen Hiley	

WOMEN AS DIRECTORS OF SCHOOL PROPOSED BY CIVIC CLUB HEAD

Mrs. E. W. Biddle Wants Them on Education Board, but Says Sex Should Not Enter Superintendency Problem.

An entirely new issue regarding the proposal of a woman superintendent of schools was raised today by Mrs. Edward W. Biddle, president of the Civic Club.

Disposing of the question of the superintendency, which she characterized as one not of sex, but of ability, she proposed women members of the Board of Education, the body which will elect the superintendent in September. It is her firm conviction, she said, that women are necessary on educational boards.

Judge Charles Y. Audenried, secretary of the Board of Judges, which in October will fill six vacancies on the Board of Education caused by expiration of terms and the death of William T. Tilden, said today that the Board of Judges has no objection to women on the Board of Education, as precedent, he said, has established that fact.

The board, he said, is open to informal nominations for members on the educational board. This statement is taken by women as an invitation to present their cause.

BOTH SEXES NEEDED.

"I have had a long-time conviction," said Mrs. Biddle, "which strengthens as the years pass, that for the good of the schools every Board of Education should be composed of both men and women. There can be no question that in every school district there may be found women as well fitted for such service as are the men of the same district. Co-operation in the administration of school affairs is as natural and as necessary as it is in the home."

"I am not in sympathy with any effort to secure office for a woman because she is a woman, nor for a man because he is a man," she continued, discussing the question of a successor to the late Dr. William C. Jacobs, superintendent of schools. "Consequently, I feel keenly that the election of so important an official as superintendent of schools should not be influenced by sex. As I interpret the feminist movement, it expresses the earnest wish of women to be judged fairly. A spirit of loyalty to the schools and of fairness toward the candidates is what I trust will actuate the members of the Board of Education in their decision. The one point that I wish to accentuate is that no woman should be discriminated against because she is a woman."

JUDGE IS RECEPTIVE.

The board of judges, said Judge Audenried, obviously cannot discuss publicly whom it will appoint to be members of the Board of Education.

"We shall be glad to hear from the friends of candidates," he said. "It is our duty to select the most competent persons and also to endeavor to please the people. There is no objection to a woman, for there have been women on the board. Since Mrs. Owen Wister was a member, the membership of the board was made smaller and, as it was desirable to have as members persons well known to the entire population, it so happened that no woman has been elected since that time. Woman's normal place is in the home and no woman has stood out prominently for that reason."

Asked if he considered Dr. Anna Howard Shaw a suffragist leader, a representative type of woman, Judge Audenried said tha the had never heard of her.

"I do not recall ever having heard of Doctor Shaw before," he declared. "I am kept too busy."

Miss Katherine Puncheon, head of the High School for Girls; Dr. Lucy L. W. Wilson, head of the biological department of the Girls' Normal School, and Miss Margaret T. Maguire, principal of the George Washington Public School, will certainly not be considered as possible appointees by the board.

"We would not appoint any persons in the employ of the Board of Education," he explained. "That would be a case of the tail wagging the dog. They wouldn't be considered unless they resigned.

"The election will be held the first Friday in October. At that time the board will have several persons in mind, no doubt. We haven't heard the will of the people as yet."

PREVALENCE OF LOUD SILK SHIRTS CAUSES ARREST OF ROBBERS

Detectives Unearth Den Where Goods Stolen From Chestnut Street Store Are Peddled Off at Cheap Prices—Raid Discloses Hard Luck Story.

Usually the habitues of the Tenderloin don't wear silk shirts. So one day when three observant City Hall detectives strolled through that section they were surprised to notice that almost every crook, dope-fiend and confidence man they passed on the street wore one.

Detectives know that for every effect there is a cause, especially in the Tenderloin. And because of their training they are wont to presume that the cause is a criminal one. It is their skill in ferreting out this reason and sustaining their presumption with facts that stamps them as good detectives.

These gumshoe men wondered about the silk shirts, and they began to make some guarded inquiries. In every underworld district there are always men who are willing to tell. These are the "stool pigeons," despised of their fellows and the police alike. But they are sometimes useful to the latter.

There were so many men wearing silk shirts that it was not very difficult for the detectives to find out from some of them where they came from. From one of the "squealers" they learned that it was known throughout the Tenderloin that any one who wanted to buy cheap fine silk shirts, with an assortment of some of the very loudest colors, could get them at 918 Winter street.

The detectives bore in mind that there had been a robbery at the store of Walter G. Becker, 1018 Chestnut street, and that 500 silk shirts had been stolen. So they raided the Winter street house. As a result of the raid they arrested three men, George Wilson, 27 years old; Harry Walton, 22 years old, and Harry Davis, who lives at 831 Vine street.

This story was told today by Detective Doyle, who was accompanied on the round-up by Detectives Benz and Le Strange.

Today Wilson told Doyle his story. He said that for three years he has been employed in a paper-box factory at 8th and Willow streets. There he was a trusted employe and a steady worker.

His downfall, he said, began a month ago. He told Detective Doyle that he had a wife and family living up-town who believe in his honesty. He is said to live near 21st and Master streets.

Wilson says he wanted to be near his place of employment, so he took a room at 918 Winter street. Frequently he visited his family. He says he did not know much about the Winter street neighborhood, but soon he became acquainted with some of the other roomers in the house. Two of them were burglars, he declares.

"You're a fool to work so hard," he says they told him. "Look at us. We take it easy, don't work, have a good time and always have enough money to see us through. We go out every now and then and pull a good job. Then we're fixed for awhile. It's soft. You come with us sometime and see for yourself."

Wilson had a vision of "easy money," and he thought he would be enabled to provide better for his family. After a while he consented. They told him he could be the outside man. When they decided to rob the Becker store they told him to watch the entrance, and they passed out packages to him through the transom. It was a risky job, for there was a great chance of discovery by the police and by night workers, who are in the habit of passing the building at that time, between 2 and 3 o'clock.

But they got away with $2000 worth of merchandise without detection.

There were fine neckties and silk shirts and silk socks. Shirts that were worth $4 and $5 apiece were peddled for $1 and $1.50. The police do not know how many agents there were, but Davis is charged with being one of them.

The police are investigating Wilson's story, for it does not coincide with their threory. They say that Wilson was the leader of the gang. The detectives learned that Wilson was very proud about his reputation for honesty. His employer was astonished at his arrest and offered to testify before Magistrate Beaton as to his good character.

The police say that Wilson had also planned to assist in the robbery of the George B. Evans' drug store, at 1106 Chestnut street, from which 40 silver vanity cases, valued at $35, were stolen on the night of July 21, but that he did not share in this adventure because of a mistake in the arrangements. Walton is accused of having been one of the robbers then.

Wilson is being held under $1500 bail for a further hearing next Thursday. Davis was held under $800 bail for court; Walton is under $1500 bail on the Becker robbery charge, and an additional $800 for the Evans' burglary. The police say Walton also was led astray by bad companions, and turned to a life of crime in order to support his widowed mother.