

DONALDSON GETS INSURANCE TASK

Named as Permanent Receiver for the Pension Mutual Life

READY FOR EXAMINATION

Work of Probing Books of the Company Will Begin Next Tuesday

Thomas B. Donaldson, of 331 Walnut street, who since 1911 has been the special deputy for all liquidations of the State Insurance Department, has been named as permanent receiver of the Pension Mutual Life Insurance Company by State Insurance Commissioner J. Denny O'Neil.

Mr. Donaldson will begin his examination of the wrecked company's books next Tuesday. The examination, which may last for six months or longer, will be made here and in Pittsburgh, where the home offices of the company are situated over a little poolroom and barbershop.

Common Councilman Thompson, of the Forty-fifth Ward, who two weeks ago introduced a resolution in Common Council asking for an inquiry into the business connections of the Pension Mutual Life Insurance Company, said today he would do nothing in the matter when Council meets this afternoon.

"I intend to leave this entire matter in the hands of the Insurance Department," said Mr. Thompson.

In Pittsburgh yesterday E. J. Kent, attorney for the Pension Mutual Life Insurance Company, was censured by Federal Judge Charles P. Orr, who revoked the order made last Monday appointing Joseph H. Thompson, of Beaver, and the Commonwealth Trust Company, of this city, receivers for the company. The order revoking the appointment of the receivers was made after Judge Orr and Judge W. H. S. Thomson had conferred in the matter.

"This Court should not have attempted to take this matter out of the hands of the Dauphin County Court," said Judge Orr, "and so if it had been fully informed," said Judge Orr.

This statement from Judge Orr came after Deputy Attorney General Horace W. Davis had filed a petition with the judges asking that the order of revocation be made. Mr. Davis explained that the act of 1911 gave the Insurance Commissioner full power to liquidate any or all companies selling insurance that were found to be insolvent.

Mr. Kent contended that the stockholders were entitled to at least temporary protection by the Federal court. "The Dauphin County Courts," he said, "at the instance of the Attorney General, have used a steamroller and run over the vast number of stockholders in this company. The receivers have been appointed and surely they can do no harm. On the other hand, they are protecting the assets of the company and the interests of the stockholders."

HELD FOR BRIBERY ATTEMPT

Negro Electrical Bureau Employee Accused of Approaching Officers

Charles Connors, a negro employee of the Electrical Bureau, was held under \$500 bail for court by Magistrate Beaton in Central Station today after it had been testified by Hart and Elshman, members of the vice squad, that he had attempted to bribe them into "covering up" their testimony against one of his friends, who had been arrested for conducting a speakeasy.

According to the vice squad men, Connors approached them while they were waiting to testify against Louis Castell, also a negro, proprietor of a restaurant at Tenth and Wood streets, accused of selling liquor on Sunday. The case was up for trial before Judge Gorman in the Municipal Court.

Hart testified that Connors offered him \$10 to "go easy" with Castell. Hart arranged for Elshman to arrest Connors the moment he handed him the \$10. Connors was taken immediately before Magistrate Beaton.

FRENZIED DURING FIRE

Wilmington Woman in Blazing Home Attempts to Commit Suicide

WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 21.—When fire swept her home at 1415 Thatcher street and caused a loss of \$200, Mrs. Mary McCombs became hysterical and tried to stab her throat with a razor. Patrolman Collins rushed into the house in time to seize the weapon and stop her. The woman was taken to the police station and held until her sanity could be looked into. It was found that she was merely suffering from nervousness.

COP CAN'T CATCH HUGGER

Pottsville Policeman, Disguised as Woman, Hindered by Skirts

POTTSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 21.—The hugger who embraced half a score of women while they were shopping still eludes the police.

Traps were set to catch him by dressing policemen as women. When the hugger, deceived by the female attire, approached the policeman, he was chased, but the cop found that skirts were an impediment to a rapid gait, and the man readily escaped.

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HOME OPERA COMPANY GIVES FINE "TROVATORE"

Capital Performance of Good Singing and Acting—Bigger Audiences Deserved

The Philadelphia Grand Opera Company, which on Monday started its enterprise of giving this city grand opera of professional merit and high standard with a briskly moving and vocally efficient presentation of "Lucia," last evening courted comparison, in its second offering, with the Metropolitan. The local "Il Trovatore," on a fifty cents to \$2 price scale, had many merits that even \$5 opera cannot surpass.

The proper representation of Salvatore Cammarano's melodrama (impossible in plot, but with what dime-novel thrills and shivers) set to Giuseppe Verdi's melodies (early Verdi, but how tuneful and ear-tickling!) requires above all else enthusiasm for what they are doing from all the participants, and this attitude of fresh, frank interest is precisely what is lacking in such star performances as that given at Broad and Poplar streets a week ago Tuesday night. The local "Trovatore" last night had it abundantly. The Metropolitan of New York has no right to offer us the standbys of the repertoire in a season of weekly productions; its place is to give our opera lovers and connoisseurs novelties absolute or relative by way of revival. The place of a home company equipped to present adequate opera and filled with the verve and vigor of new enterprise can justly be deemed the maintenance of the standard repertoire with an occasional "flyer" into the empyrean of the new and unusual.

There should be, there is, a definite place for a company that can give such capital performances as this week's "Lucia" and "Il Trovatore." Philadelphia apparently has not yet awakened to the fact that it

has a chance to support to success an institution that gives the community its own opera and provides facilities for the operative education of the younger generation. Palermo, Lucca, St. Gallen, Mainz, Graz—numerous cities either totally unknown or merely geographical names to the average Philadelphian—support their own operas; can this city do the same, and will it? That is the question which is agitating Messrs. Rosenbach, Kahn and Martin, who have inaugurated the Philadelphia Grand Opera Company. The best appreciation is not expressed in verbal praise, though that is as balm to the spirit of the impresario and artist, but is shown best in terms of box-office patronage and subscriptions for seats. This is the kind of appreciation that must be shown if this excellent season is to run its course. This is the kind of appreciation that has not been given yet in sufficient quantity. Possibly these are matters outside the province of a review. Well, there was a performance of "Il Trovatore," and it was a good one. Lively movement achieved theatrical effects and so pervasive was the sense of dramatic motion that the conglomeration of Verdi's melodies got far from the "concert opera" which it has been called. Maestro Martini brought Latin beats and passions to the score, and his hand caught them and communicated them. The chorus sang in time and tone. The principals were Ester Ferrabini, a soprano, whose excellent lower tones become somewhat strident up the scale, but whose position of temperamental fervor made her Leonora an appealing and believable personage; Margaret Jarman, a mezzo of luscious quality and the intonation of a marked dramatic instinct; Forrest Lamont, a personable young tenor, whose voice is fresh, full, freely produced and sweet even in rising passages; and Massimo Albino, who has the invaluable assets of a good baritone and effective stage methods. They all took "Trovatore" seriously, not superiorly or sneeringly; they were subjective, not detached from the opera. W. R. M.



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