AMEND SHERN LAW. **CITY LEXOW URGES**

Placeholders Need Safeguards for Jobs, Councils' **Committee Says**

STATUTE A "DELUSION"

Effect of Legislation That of Political Weapon Instead of Protection

A plan whereby city officeholders may be protected from the provisions of the Shern law is the net result of a councilmanic inrestigation into the workings of the Civil Bervice under the Blankenburg administration. The Lexow Committee was appointed a year ago, and after many meetings will submit a report to Councils next Thursday suggesting that placeholders need new safeguards round their jobs.

Of secondary importance to the plan to let down bars raised by the Shorn act is that section of the report which attempts to show gross inefficiency in the Civil Service management of the last administration, and which directly blames the commission for a shortage of water which is experienced each summer in the central wards through a change in engineers at Lardner's Point. This statement is based upon the removal of Harry M. Hillegass as chief engineer. and not, as is the case with Chief Carleton R. Davis, of the Water Bureau, upon the inadequacy of the equipment.

That portion of the report dealing with the Shern law is as follows: "The Shern law was enacted for the purpose of taking In w was enacted for the purpose of taking officeholders out of politics. It is respect-fully submitted that its practical working has been to drive officeholders into politice rather than keep them out. Officeholders who in any way violated the Shern law almost immediately had that fact commu-nicated to some organization separate and distinct from the city government, and this organization was either the Committee of Beventy or some similar organization, and Beventy or some similar organization, and this fact was then continually held over their heads. If they refused to follow the political commands of their superior off-cers or of these organizations they would be readily reminded of the fact that they were subject to dismissal for prior violations of the Shern law. These officeholders, to save themselves from dismissal for prior offense against the law, again violated the law by political activity. venty or some similar organization, and law by political activity.

"Your committee has ascertained that very many complaint affidavits were made to the various directors of the city government alleging political activity on the part of employes. Presumably many of these complaints were made by public officebeckers or active politicians, and were prompted by a desire to remove the in-cumbents in order to obtain the positions for themselves or friends. The officeholder having no knowledge of the complaint could not defend himself against the accould not defend himself against the ac-cusations, no matter how exagerated or unfounded they might he in truth. Where-fore, it is submitted that the Shern law as it was administered was frequently used as a means to procure the discharge of an experienced and efficient dity employe and place in his position an experienced office-seeker of a different political faith.

"The Shern law vaguely defines political activity, and by some directors was very broadly construed even to include member-hip in social organizations. Some direc-tors discharged officeholders for political activity for acts which others declined to construe as political activity. It seems to your committee that the Legislature should be requested to amend the Shern law and be requested to amend the Shern law and provide a statute of limitations, so that the past offenses of years' standing could not be taken advantage of by the appoint-ing power, and used by that power to com-pel the officeholder to further violate the Shern law by obeving and complying with the appointing power's political commands." were all ready for the opening of the ex-the appointing power's political commands."

The report, which is voluminous in that it includes many letters from persons re-moved from the city service during the last administration, was drawn by Joseph Maradministration, was drawn by Joseph Mar-cus, the committee clerk and former chief clerk of the Civil Service Commisison when this branch of the municipal government was in its infancy. After outlining com-plaints made by many placeholders, it says, in conclusion. "Such an administration of its service law under the guise of reform

Sir Herbert Tree viewing portrait of his daughter. He visited the Academy of the Fine Arts and praised the canvas of the fair young English girl. who is now Mrs. Curtis Moffat, a wealthy New Yorker. "RUSHING" FRESHMEN SIR HERBERT STIRS STAGE STUDENTS' IRE BEGINS AT UNIVERSITY

ACTOR CRITICIZES AMERICAN DRAMA

They Indignantly Repel His As-Desirable First-Class Men Get

sertion That There Is No Distinctive American Drama

Drama Followers Resent Sir Herbert Tree's Criticism

DRAMA followers aroused when asserts distinctive American drama

is as plentiful as the dodo. "Yes," chorus supporters of the American stage in reply. "We are too polite to say that Sir Herbert doesn't know what he's talking about, but that's what we think."

Students and supporters of the stage reovered from their indignation sufficiently today to answer the charge by Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree, who loft our midst yesterday, that there was no such a thing as dis tinctive American drama.

In words both spoken and unspoken, they stopped finishing plans for the Americal drama year celebration for a sufficient length of time to submit Sir Herbert's state ment to a course in dramatic dissection They folloyied the knighted English actor with adjustives; they speared him with

Court After Trapped Players verbs and then buried him beneath a pilof prepositions and pronouns. Now, it may be known, or it may not that Philadelphia was once the dramatic center of the country, and for that reason and county detectives, headed by Mayor students and supporters of the American Filbert, broke into the gambling rooms of stage in this city have been making great Warren, better known as "Doc" Landis, on plans for the celebration here; in fact, they

were all ready for the opening of the ex-And then-But let Sir Herbert tell the tale in his own way, even though it be not in the

civil service law under the guise of reform was a mockery and a delusion, and instead of being a protection to the officeholders and a benefit and a saving to the city, it was a detriment to the efficiency of the office-holders and a great hest to the City Treas. perhaps that in the future we may see real American drama."

ICE IMPEDES RIVER TRAFFIC FIREMEN FORM UNION TO GET PAY INCREASE

500 Join A. F. of L.-Will Take Fight to State Legislature, Score Councilmen

Organization of more than five hundred ity firemen into a local union of the Superican Federation of Labor, according to officers of the newly formed body. Is the sutcome of the failure of certain Coundimanic leaders to make good upon prom ses that the firemen of Philadelphia were mtitled to first consideration in the mater of readjustment of salaries and working conditions.

"We fought our campaign fairty." said one of the union officers today, "but we found that some of the men in Councils who professed to be our friends were simply using us. When they raised the tax rate one of the arguments employed was that part of the increase was to be given to the Bureau of Fire for additional salar and non. Mr. Gaffney told us the day th finance committee fixed the rate that we would be taken care of as soon as the stimated balances and budgets were in Then when the min of seven cents was or ande for the Bureau of Fire as against the mann for the hurran of pice as against four cents hot year, or a 75 per cent in-crease in revenue, the appropriations write so juggled that not one cent of the numbry given to us by the law is to reach us. The people of Philadelphia may stand for that sort of treatment by their Councilmen, but we will not

'Our fellow firemen in Pittsburgh faced the same treatment in their cit that we received here. They went into the federa-tion and then took their fight to the State Legislature, with the result that they have o platoons and better salaries, not to men a larger department than Philadelphia In mattee to Councils it is only fail to say that we appreciate the efforts of several members who were our friends and the frankness of others who openly de-clared they would not favor our pies at this time. It is non-of the type referred to by Select Councilman Lemnon in his outburst, of last week, who, we feel detuided us, that compelled our banding under the union abor banner and taking the request for ustice and betterment to the State author

LICENSE JUDGES GET THREATENING NOTES

Snyder County Judges Ignore Warning and Curb Liquor Traffic

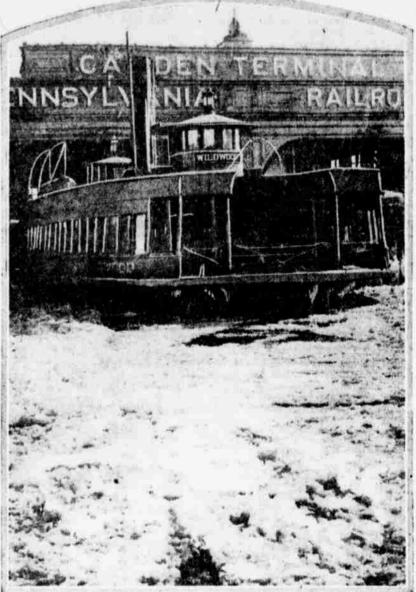
SELINSBOVE, Pa., Feb. 12.-Not only Anti-Saloon Lengue leaders, but liberal viewers of the liquot question, are praising Judge Johnson, Judge Keller and Judge Field for their action in the License Court Friday, when they made rules that will greatly curb such sales in Snyder County These prohibit treating, selling in bottles, selling on Christmas and Momerial bay and compelling landlords to close their bars LED BY READING MAYOR Alleged Proprietor Held for

and competing landlords to close their bars at 10 p. m. an hour earlier than formerly. Judge Keller and Judge Fleid were elected in different years, and each was opposed by a no-license candidate, so the general helicf was they were not the tem-perance people's choice. Each pledged him-self in his campaign to be governed by the wish of the prople and therefore when a wish of the people, and, therefore, when a petition of 1898 persons was presented in

petition of 1898 persons was presented in court they granted it. It has since been learned that the Court's ruling was made in the face of anonymous letters received by each of the Judges the day court was held in which their lives were threatened if they would hurt the liquor business. The one to Judge Johnson stated his house would he wreeked here stated his home would be wrecked by a bomb and, if he were not killed, his enemies "would get him later."

INDIAN FIGHTS FOR ALLIES

Princes= Pat's Regiment



So thick has the ice floe in the Delaware River become that the ferries plying between this city and Camden are unable to keep open the usual lane between the two terminals. The trip is taking from two to three minutes longer than the schedule calls for, as the boats have to crush their way through the ice.

VALENTINE FOR PRESIDENT

WILKES-BARRE POSTAL **OFFICIAL IS ACCUSED**

Lax in Performing Duties Is Charge Against Deputy Postmaster Camp

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., Feb. 12 .- Charges have been lodgen with the Postoffice De-pariment at Washington against Major Ed-mund D. Camp, deputy postmaster of Wilhes-Barre, who has been in the postal service for the last twenty-two years. The chargers have been made by postollice in-spectors, who allege that Major Camp has been lax in his duties in intrusting Government money and property to irresponsible youths and others who are not bonded. Rack of the charges the friends of Major Camp see a political move on the part of Democrats to cust him from office. The friends of Major Camp have railied to his

upport and declare they will fight the novement to remove him from office. The position pays a salary of \$2000 per year, Major Camp, who served in the Spanish-American War and who was a member of the National Guard for twentyfive years, declares that he is prepared to tand on his record.

Kirmess Nets \$7000 for Hospital

BIG FILM MERGERS ARE RUMORED IN N.Y.

Paramount, Selznick and Other Large Concerns to Consolidate, It Is Said

By the Photoplay Editor

All the largest companies now in the hotoplay producing field are about to form combination, according to rumors current New York city. It is predicted that the in New York city. It is predicted that the coalition will have a revolutionary effect on the movie situation. To add to the com-plication which the new deal may cause, it is said that there will be a second mergee, almost as big as the first. The latter will include exhibitors. At present, report de-claree, three groups of promoters are work-ing on a scheme to effect the consolidation of the exhibition interests.

Variety, the weekly theatrical paper, has the following to say about the rumored codlition:

"During the last two weeks Menars Zu-"During the last two weeks Menars, Zu-kor, Selznick, Green and Goldfish have been getting together, and there is every likely-hood that a combination of the Paramount, hood that a combination of the Paramoun, Arteraft. Seiznick and Goldwyn companies will be brought about. This will be but the preliminary step in the great amalga-mation which, once consummated, is to preach out and corral all of the big disirile-ulers, overtures already having been mad to Stanley Mastbaum, of Philadeiphin, so Lerser, of San Francisco, and the Gordan Rothers, in New England. The latter the seem to be willing to sit in with the hig producers and play their game."

To reassure those countless Fairbanks fans, it may be announced that Douglas will soon be in the picture kanne again, after having severed his connection with Fine Aris. He has begun work on his first film, to be distributed by Aricraft. That corpora-tion also has Mary Pickford and George M. Cohan. John Emerson will direct Pairbanks and Anita Loos will write the scripts.

Iton Marclay, of happy memory because "Follies," is to be started in one two and three reel comedies. They will be called B'itiken" films, and are to be made during the summer.

Will the esoteric correspondent who signs Will the essteric correspondent who signs himself "S'anitor," and who nearly reproves the photoplay editor for calling Frollo in "The parting of Paris" an architishop, in-stead of an architecore, be good enough to send his real name to this department His incognito will be respected in print

Today is the only one during the year that Mr. A. L. Einstein, of the Stanley cm-pany, signs his name in full. It is Abraham Lincoln Einstein. It will be surprising if the Lincoln cycle of photoplays is not booked through the efforts of Abe of the Movies



The detectives confiscated a "crap" table, poker chips, playing cards and liquor. The roprietor and a dozen players were taken o tity fiall with the confiscated gambling

The prisoners had an immediate hearing before Magistrate Weber. Landis was held in 5860 hall for court for maintaining a gambling house and the Others were re-leased to appear as witnesses when wanted The raid was electron land carried out h

Invitations to inncheons at frait houses. Certain rules, however, gavern the "rush-ing." A freeliman may not be kept over sight at any of the frait houses. He may not be entertained at any other place than these houses except the campus. Invitation to nonheeship in the fraits must not come for three weeks yet. Invitations must be only one at a time. "This interfraternity agreement was adouted three years ago at the University. only one at a time. This interfraternity agreement was adopted three years ago at the University of Fenneylyania. Any fraternity violating it has agreed to pay a fine of \$250. GAMBLING HOUSE RAID

Try to Escape

READING, Pa., Feb. 12 .- A sensational

ald was made today when a squad of city

he top floor of a Penn street store building.

Luncheon Invitations From

Many Fraternities

The freshman of the University of Penn

The freshman of the University of Penn-sylvania class at 12.30 today from a social doormat to a much courted and highly fed personage. At this thine the Greek letter fraterrition-there are thirty of them-start to "runk" freshman. The freshman, if he looks promising at all from a social or athetics standpoint, will receive many invitations to innercons at frat beness.

The report is approved by the following Councilmen, who were appointed December 11, 1915, to investigate: William D. Baeon, Morris E. Conn. John J. Conroy. John F. Fiaherty, William E. Finley, Edward B. Gieason, Charles F. Kelly, James E. Lennon, Bernard J. McGiugan, Robert Smith, Clinton A. Sowers and Richard Wegelin.

YOUTH, CHASED AS THIEF, TRIES LEAP TO FREEDOM

Paul Kellar, Store Clerk, Caught Under Pool Table-Alleged Loot and Pawn Tickets Found

A seventeen-year-old boy, accused of robbery, jumped from a second-story window today in an attempt to evade capture. After a chase of more than ten blocks he was caught hiding under a pool table in a room near Sixth street and Girard avenue

The prisoner is Paul Kellar, of 1617 North Fourth street. He is said by the police to have a record. He was employed in the hardware store of N.J. Dilworth, 417 Mar-ket street, which has been robbed system-atically of sporting goods recently. Last Wednesday seven pistols disappeared from Wednesday seven pistols disappeared from the store

Detectives Foster and Lazelle were as-signed to the case. They suspected Kellar. When they went to arrest him he jumped from the window. The chase followed. In a trunk upstairs, the detectives say, they found a varied assortment of sporting goods stolen from the hardware store, together with several pawn tickets. Kellar will be arraigned in night court.

Prominent Men to Aid Suffragists

NEW YORK, Feb. 12 .- Indorsing the offer of Mrs. Norman Dell. Whitehouse and other members of the New York State Suffrage Party to turn over their organization to the Government in the event of war, a committee headed by Frank A. Vanderlip, president of the National City Bank, and including Herbert Parson, George W. Perkins and Adolph Lewisohn, has announced the formation of a Men's Advisory Board of the Woman Suffrage Party in this State to work for votes for women and to attempt to block alleged n and to attempt to block alleged forts in the Legislature to postpone action in the suffrage amendment by tacking to ameniments that would delay its sub-

ion to the people.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

The quotations on butter and eggs given

18—As usual on Saturday, wholesales quiet, but fine goods were in very ply and femily heid. Medium and low ted in buyers' favor. Quotalions: tresh, soud-packed creamery, fancy, a 50 Side: satis firsts, 429 and the strain average estra, 45 Wide: firsts, 30 Wide: and so the strain average estra, 45 Wide: firsts, 30 Wide: first

furgent receipte. \$18.30

And with feelings carefully concealed, members rose up and smote Sir Herbert

members rose up verbally. Dr. Thomas D. O'Bolger, professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania and authority on subjects dramatic, parity answered Sir Herberts "is there or is there not?" question by addressing a query there not?" question by addressing a query

"I might ask Sir Herbert," said Doctor O'Balger, "whether he considers whether or no England has a distinctive English drama, When you consider that all of England's leading playwrights are 'foreigners.' Sir O'Bolger. Herbert's sweeping statement seems a bit

And relentlessly, Doctor O'Bolger pointed out that Shaw is an Irishman, Barrie a Scotchman. Pinero a Jew, and Jones a

Welshman. "If he means that American drama is that which should have a native background, can he say the same of English drama? If you were to exclude from classification as national drama a play in which the set-ting was laid in a foreign country you would exclude more from the English drama than you would from our own

drama than you would from our own country." "That's true." said another. "Where would Mr. Tree be without 'Hamiet' or 'Othello? Oh, where?" Many of the other masters of stagecraft who are Philadelphians echoed the senti-ments expressed by Doctor O'Belger. He was referred to the book of "Representative American Plays." issued by Dr. Arthur Hobson Quinn, dean of the college depart-ment of the University of Pennsylvana. Even some of his fellow actors turned against him. Raymond Hitchcock was short

against him. Raymond Hitchcock was short and sweet. "No American drama? He might just as well say that I'm not a comedian," said "Hitchie," in a curtain speech as his train pulled out for Toronto

Frankford High Marks Lincoln Day Exercises in commemoration of Lincoln Birthday was held at noon in the Frank-ford High School. Prof. George Alvin Alvin Snock, the principal, delivered an address on the life of Lincoln and told how it could be used as an example to every schoolboy An address also was made by Prof. Joseph M. Gottschalk. After several musical selec-tions, the pupils in a body sang "America" and the "Star Spangled Banner."

Calls Religion in Army Ridiculous Chaplains in the army were called "rl-diculous" by Rabbi Eli Mayer, of the Ro-def Shalom Temple, Broad and Mount Vernon streats, who addressed a peace meeting in the Friends' Meeting House. He said it was ridiculous for military offi-cials to send chaplains with their armiss "to beseech God's blessings on the slaughter of their fallow-men."

of their fellow-men."

Bernard Listamann, Violinist, Dead

is no rama. d call undright and summoned a dozen detectives They proceeded to the gambling rooms a mare away and at a given signal the the ors were battered in, the Mayor leading the assault.

Wildert excitement among the gambiers ensued. With the very first noise the lights were extinguished and everyhedy tried to even a Several tried to jump from win-dows, but were prevented by the police.

The Mayer says the raid was made be mass Landis insisted upon beeping his plac-open in defiance of orders to close. Thi Thb was the first raid under the Filbert admin-stration and habitues of the underworld have taken to their cyclone cellars until things quiet down.

DEMAND FOR 1916 TOBACCO

Lancaster County's Crop Admitted to Be of Fine Quality

its high quality. The leaves are not as large as might be desired, but it has the right color a fine bouquet and a good

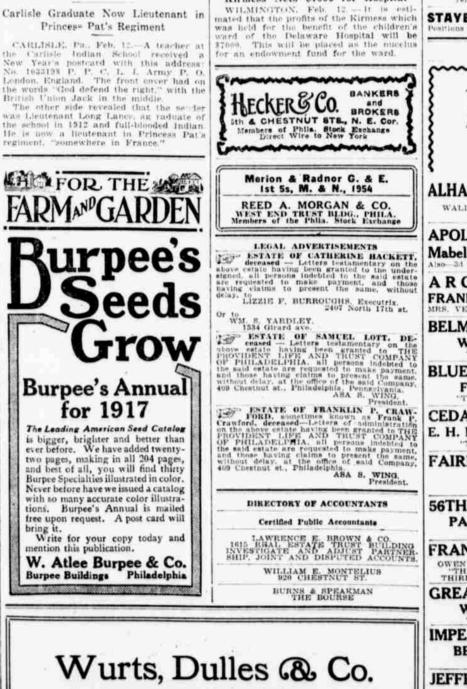
While local packers were shy about buy ing this crop because of the high prices deconsided by the growers and paid by big outside eight manufacturing firms without lomur, they yet procured about twenty nomer, they yet procured about twenty per cent of it, and already all but about 3500 cases have been sold at a handsome profit, and that, too, with little or no handling by the buyers. Many of these simply transferred their contracts and pocketed the

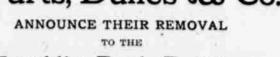
tion among the growers, who think they were induced to sell at too low a figure. In were induced to sell at too low a figure. In consequence, they declare there will be no more selling on the field for them, as they will hold their crops until stripped. They see now that those who held on for late selling are getting the top-notch prices. The first of the crop sold as low as twelve cents a pound, while the bulk of it com-manded from fifteen to mixteen and one-half cents, and lately it has been selling for twenty cents a pound. The growers who still have some now ask twenty-one who still have some now ask twenty-one cents. As evidence of the difference in price cents. As evidence of the dimerence in price between the 1915 and 1916 crops it may be stated that a prominent cigar manufactur-ing firm of Cleveland. O., had to pay \$40,600 more for the same quantity of 1916 tobacco than it paid for its 1915 goods.

Fast Ambulance Saves Gas Victim

A quick run by the Germantown Hospital ambulance saved the life of John Gillespie, fifty-six years old, of 605 East Haines street, Germantown, early today. Accord-ing to the family, he accidentally turned on the gas when he went to bed last night. His wife detected the odor. He was rushed to the homital where physicians and he to the hospital, where physicians said he would recover.

Weather Record Broken in Detroit CHICAGO, Feb. 12.—Bernard Listamann, seventy-six, noted violinist, and at one time court violinist to the Prince of Schwarz-burg, Germany, is dead hers. He formerly was concertmaster of the Thomas Orches-tra in New York, and later founder of the Bonton Philharmonic Club and Orchestra-the uncleas of the present Boston Sym-DETROIT, Feb. 12.-The coldest day in the history of the local Weather Bureau was experienced here last night and today.





Franklin Bank Building 1416-18 CHESTNUT STREET

> AND 1417-19 SANSOM STREET

Bell Telephone-Spruce 5400 Keystone Telephone-Race 4130 .

This has caused considerable dissatisfac-