Evening Ledger

THAW A LUNATIC, **MOTHER CONCEDES**

Gives Up Long Fight and Asks Appointment of Commission

CALLS SON IRRESPONSIBLE

Court Asked to Protect Stanford White's Slayer From His Infirmities

Mrs. Mary C. Thaw, mother of Harry K. Thaw, today filed a petition through former Judge Gay Gordon in Common Pleas Court No. 5, asking for a lunacy commis-tion to inquire into the sanity of Thaw.

Ellis Ames Ballard was appointed com-issioner. The writ is returnable the first londay in April. It is believed that the etition was filed to head off action con-

templated by New York authorities.

Prior to the filing of the writ, the Thaw
family made it known through two statements that they had abandoned all efforts to keep Thaw out of the insane asylum. One statement was issued by former Judge Gordon and the other by Mrs. Thaw.

slayer of Stanford White makes a pathetic acknowledgment of her son's insanity. This mother, who for years has stuck to her son through thick and thin and expended a fortune to save him paying the penait for his rash acts, confesses at last that ber son is "an irresponsible man, whom the law must guard." She now appeals to the courts of Pennsylvania to protect her son from his infirmities.

CONVINCED WATCHING IN HOSPITAL The mother states that she became co vinced of her son's insanity after living six weeks with him at St. Mary's Hospi-tal where Thaw has been convalescing from self-inflicted knife wounds. He was taken there following his attempt to end his life after he learned that detectives were search-for him with warrants, charging him with

kidnapping and maltreating a boy.
In his statemnt, Judge Gordon says that
Mrs. Thaw has no wbecome the principal in
proceedings to have Thaw adjudged insane. and his person and estates brought under the judicial authority of the State of Penn-sylvania. He states that he has seen the District Attorney of New York and invited him to send his own medical experts here to see Thaw and examine his condition. "Since the attempt on his life," said Gor-

don, 'Thaw's mental state has been so confeebled that rational conversation with him has been impossible. Memory, speech and thought are so impaired that he is a mental

"Doctor Kirby, who has him in medical charge, and whose ability and disinterestedless cannot be questioned, has gloomy for-odings as to his future."

MRS. THAW'S STATEMENT

MRS, THAW'S STATEMENT

Mrs. Thaw's statement follows:

"I am unable to resist the facts that
demonstrate my son's insanity. While the
truth shocks me, it also plainly points the
path of duty. For isx weeks I have lived
with him at the hospital, where he was
taken because of his self-inflicted wounds,
and now I know, as I never knew before,
that my son is an irresponsible man whom
the law must guard. Therefore, to the
courts of my State—of his State—I have
applied to help a mother protect her son
from his infirmities. With this statement
I should like to close all discussion of the
affairs of me and mine."

TODAY'S MARRIAGE LICENSES

th G. Sperry, Jr. 3547 N. Sydenham st.,
d Elizabeth H. Miller, 2455 N. 20th st.,
F. Kelly, 3144 Aramingo ave., and Gettle V. Kelly, 2488 E. Albert st.,
arde Zappalo, 910 Christian st., and Rosina
ppalo, 930 Christian street,
les Curtis, 2143 Elizabeth st., and Maret Seaton, 1523 Fitzwater st.,
K. Ferrow, 609 Watts st., and Elizabeth garet Seaton, 1823 Fluwater at John R. Ferrow, 969 Waits at, and Elizabeth John R. Ferrow, 969 Waits at, and Elizabeth H. Houter, 1109 Oxfor at Louis Sexal, 749 S. 15th at, and Anna Saibel, 205 Race at.

Max Oberlander, 534 Titan sit, and Rose Orenstein, 235 Washington ave.

Armando Liberi, 1417 S. Brancroft at, and Esther Movenul, 1417 S. Brancroft at, and Esther Movenul, 1417 S. Brancroft at, and Esther Movenul, 1417 S. Brancroft at, and Frances A. Dougherts, 3519 N. Carlisle at, and Frances A. Dougherts, 3519 N. Carlisle at, and Rose Hyman, 615 Dudler at, 222 N. 18th at, and Rose Hyman, 615 Dudler at, 18th at, and Helen Ashoff, 1916 N. Hancock at, and Helen Ashoff, 1916 N. Hancock at, and Eunice Beattle, Della, Pa. Rosell W. Colle, 115 Machanic at, and Maggie Kilson, 1314 Waiselv and St. and Annie C. Stevenson, 1228 Hope at, 214 Poplar at, and Marie A. Herresei, 3319 N. 20th at, and Roberta V. Sewell, 1913 S. 12th at, and Housell, 1506 Bainbridge at, Dominick Simone, 817 Federal st, and Catharine Marchiane, 1822 S. Alder st.

News of The World **Pictures**

In the center of this issue of the EVENING LEDGER appears, for the first time, a new four-page

Picture Section

It takes the place of the illus-rated feature previously appearing daily on this page. This en-larged attraction of the EVENING LEDGER will be

A Daily Fixture

nd will entitle this newspaper to



GOVERNOR TO KILL INQUIRY TONIGHT

Will Demand Impartial Body in Sending Veto to Legislature

HALTS PENROSE FOR TIME

Another Week of Doing Nothing to Be Begun by Solons

Governor Brumbaugh's veto of the Sproul Lexow resolution will be sent to the Senate when the Legislature reconvenes tonight, according to friends of the State adminis-

There exists no doubt that he will disapprove of the measure among Vare-Brumbaugh followers, and when he sends his veto message to the Leg sinture they expect him to ask for an investigating body that will not be partisan or factional.

The Governor's veto is expected to put an end to the talk of a probe, for a time at least. The Legislature will adjourn at the end of this week until March 12, and Senator Penrose could not carry out his threat to push through a concurrent resolution that would not require the approval of the Governor until that time.

The Legislature, when it reconvenes to night, will start another week of doing nothing. Senators James P. McNichol and Edwin H. Vare are both in the South, and have taken with them several of their fol-lowers who are floor leaders in the House.

The deficiency bill is scheduled for action the Senate. Both branches have good sized calendars, the sixty-two obsolete iav

Included in a list of bills to be introduced into the Legislature this week at the in-stance of the State Board of Public Charitles is a measure the object of which, it was announced by Bromley Wharton, sec-retary and general agent of the board, is "to prevent the propagation of defectives for the support of which the Commonwealth would be chargeable." Some of the other bills on the board's list are as follows:

An act placing the control and manage-ment of county jails in boards of prison inspectors. This act takes the manage-ment of county jails away from the sheriffs and places them in boards of prison in-spectors appointed by the Court of Quarter Sessions of each county, thus making the centrol off such institutions uniform throughout the Commonwealth. The act rovides elaborately for the management f the jalls by said boards of inspectors. An act making an appropriation of \$800, 800 to the building commission of the Western State Hospital for the Insane, for the erection of buildings on a site owned by the State in Westmoreland County.

An act to provide for the selection and purchase of a site for an Eastern State Hospital for the Insane. This act provides merely for the selection and purchase of a site and the preparation of proper plans for the buildings of the institution, leaving it to the next Legislature to appropriate it to the next Legislature to appropriate for the buildings.

An act providing for the establishment of a State home for persons suffering with incurable diseases. There is no such State institution now, and the two private institutions, in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, retutions, in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, respectively, are both overcowded, with long waiting lists, so that, according to the board, it is impossible to get patients admitted to them even if they have money wherewith to pay for their support therein.

An act requiring the consent of the courts committing boys to Huntingdon Reformatory to the transfer of incorrigible inmates to the State neutralization.

to the State penitentiaries. An act providing for the pensioning of superannuated employes of State and semi-State hospitals, penifentiaries, etc., more faith than seventy years old, who have been con-tinuously employed by such institutions for

GRAVE ALREADY MADE FOR BABY NEAR DEATH

For Economy's Sake Room Is Left for Infant When Sister Is Buried

Half of a grave in New Camden Come Hair of a grave in New Camden Cemetery, Camden, dug with two openings for economy's sake, is waiting today for two-year-old George Okeson, who is dying of tuberculosis in the West Jersey Homeopathic Hospital. The other haif of the grave contains the body of his six-year-old sister Florence, who died Saturday of burns.

The misfortune of the parents, Lewis and Mary Okeson, of 124 Gant street, Camden, has given them a new start in life for the four children that remain out of a brood of nine. Attention called to their distress brought food for the children, medical treatment for the mother, who is crippled w rheumatism, and a brace for eight-year oid Albert, an infantile paralysis victim, it brought sympathy, too, and money for Florence's funeral, which was conducted yesterday by the Rev. Zed Hetzel Copp. general secretary of the Associated Chari-ties of Cainden.

CAMDEN MADE BIG PROFIT THROUGH ASPHALT PLANT

Saved \$18,000 in Cost of Streets. Workhouse Run Under Municipal Auspices Earned \$1000

Camden made money building asphalt streets and running its workhouse in 1916 according to the report of Street Commissioner Alfred L. Sayres, which was issued today. He showed that the cost of the asphalt streets erected last year was about \$18,600 less than the amount paid in to the city for them by taxpayers. The work-house, which is directed by him, cost al-\$1000 less to run than the receipts

Commissioner Sayres asks the Camden Council to double the capacity of the cityowned asphalt plant, in order to make its field of work wider. Almost 2600 miles of streets were cleaned by the city department last year for \$29,000, which is a much lower figure, he said than a private contractor would have charged.

PRETZEL PLANT FIRE DOES HEAVY DAMAGE

Reading Blaze Caused by Crossed Wires-Police Investigate Previous Outbreak of Flames

READING, Pa., Feb. 26.—Defective wiring at the Siegler & Etchberger pretzel bakery here caused a serious fire, with a loss of several thousand dollars, early today. A large amount of flour, stored in the building, was burned.

City and State officials will make a thorough investigation into the cause of the fire, which occurred at Bright & Co.'s hardware store in the heart of the city early Sunday morning, causing a loss of more than \$200,000. Telephone calls were sent to three fire carpoints before an alarm to three fire carpoints before an alarm

PARADE IN MEMORY OF SLAIN STRIKER



More than 3000 men and women, wearing flowers and led by a band, defied the police and appeared on Broad street following the funeral of Martinas Bedaeziczia, who was killed during a riot of sugar workers last week

NATION'S PATRIOTISM QUESTIONED BY ABBOTT

Cleveland Cathedral Dean Says It Will Come as Country Grows Older

The patriotism of America was questioned today by the Very Rev. H. P. Al-mon Abbott, down of Trimity Cathedral, Cleveland, O., was was the speaker at the midday lenten service in the Garrich The-

patriotic as other people. The reason for this is the great immigration of recent years. The process of austimitating these foreign peoples into American civilization has not yet been completed. But Americans, whose fathers have been here for generations, who fought in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, are the keystone of our national coherence and upon them much

Dean Abbott said, however, that we have every reason to believe that this assimila-tion will eventually be brought about and when it does we will have a nation that will be second to none in patriotism.

VALUE OF PRAYER THEME OF LENTEN SERMON

The value of prayer and warning against hypocrisy apply to man today just as they did 2000 years ago, when Christ gave His message on prayer to the Jews, warning against hypocrites, according to the Rev. Dr. Elliot White, of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, who talked today at the noonday Lenten services at Christ Church.

"Prayer is a special precognitive. good men, penitent men and angels can pray," he said. "Animals cannot pray. Bad men cannot pray. Prayer is an intensely real and personal thing—a communication with God. It is not time for frivoilty. Our Lord does not condemn public prayer, but he advises us to go in a room by ourselves

"Prayer is hard work." he added, "but I is putting hard work where it will do the most good. It is a natural result. It is the necessary consequence of exercise of

WELCOME TEMPTATION AS TEST FOR TRUE MAN

The "Elasiest Way" was discussed by the Rev. Dr. Charles J. Smith, of Trinity Church, New York, who spoke at the Lenten service in Old St. John's Church, Race and Sixth streets, today.

"Tempitation is a much hated word these days." he said, "and it goes far to soil our modern nicety. We slink from it rather than receive it with joy, "Tempitation comes from the 'assayer's office' in Heaven. As man tries gold to see whether or not it is pure; in turn he is tried to see whether he is pure." The experiment is dangerous to the man

"The experiment is dangerous to the man who may be weak. It is full of delight to

him who may be strong. True toy comes indeed to man, the servant, who is weighted in the balance and is not found wanting."

HUSBAND HEIRS-AT-LAW WIN IN NEW TRIAL PLEA

Sisters and Other Relatives Will Have Another Chance to Beat Widow

The controversy over the will of the late Thomas J. Husband, Jr., the magnesia king, who died in 1913, was reopened this afternoon in the Supreme Court. The case has been in the courts twice before.

When Husband died he left a widow and When Husband died he left a widow and no children. His will set forth that the estate, valued at \$100,000, should go to his heirs-at-law. They are Anna M. Husband and Mrs. Margaret Comly, sisters, and children of a deceased sister. Catharine H. Husband, the widow. contended that the will was a forgery. She contested it in Common Pleas Court No. 1. In the first trial the verdict was in favor of the heirs at-law. A second trial, in December, 1915, resulted in a victory for the widow.

The appeal to the higher court was taken by Maurice B. Saul and John G. Johnson representing the heirs-at-law. In his opinion ordering a third trial Justice Pot-ter reviews the circumstances of the contest and sustains the contentions of Attorneys Johnson and Saul that there were errors in the charge of the trial judge.



THRONGS LINE STREETS AT STRIKER'S FUNERAL

Thousands Watch Procession as Body of I. W. W. Leader Is Borne to Church

MANY TRIBUTES AT BIER

Several thousand persons, including many strikers and their wives and children, were massed along the streets today in the sugar rike zone when the funeral procession of Martinas Bedaeziczia, I. W. W. leader, killed by a policeman's bullet in rioting last week, passed from Lithuanian Hall, 928 East Moyamensing avenue to St. Casinir Roman Catholic Church, Fourth and Wharton streets.

sons participated in the funeral procession. Each participant in the funeral procession. Each participant in the funeral cortego were a red rose, purchased from the I. W. W. strike committee for The police estimate that fully 18,000 per-W. W. strike committee for ten cents. The proceeds of the rose sale will be used to defray the funeral expenses.

There was no demonstration of any kind a sound or a movement came from the thousands who watched the hearse pass by with its burden. Tears streamed down the cheeks of the wives of many of the strikers who stood at the curb with their infants in their arms. For the most part, the faces of the men were stolid after the manner of the Polish people. They showed their feeling by their calm. Many of them did not seem to be looking at the cortege at all, but gazed elsewhere in a brooding manner. There was no demonstration, even when the procession passed the Moya-mensing avenue and Dickinson street station. The builet that killed Bedaeziczia was fired by an unidentified policeman from this station. Many of the strikers had places of vantage on house roofs; others stood in doorways, or peered out of windows. In the procession were more than 290 negro longshorement, who went on a sympathetic strike three weeks ago. The ongshoremen wore red roses and also W. W. buttons.

More than two hundred uniformed police and forty or more plain clothes men from City Hall mingled with the crowds and watched for trouble.

It is estimated by the police that between 11 a. m. yesterday and 16 a. m. today more than 15,000 persons viewed the body of Bedaezich as it lay in state in Lithuanian Hall. Following are some of the inscrip-tions on floral tributes which were banked tions on floral tributes which were banked about the coffin; "Fallen In the Workingmen's Struggle"; "We Never Forget"; "Our Brotter"; "From Your Brethren." A striker carring an American flag led the procession. He was followed by a band of twenty pieces which played Chopin's funeral march. Six flower girls, wives of strikers, preceded the hearse. St. Casimir's Church was soon packed to its capacity, and the police were obliged to push their way in. There was a solemn high requiem mass, with the Rev. J. J. Kaulkis officiating. Interment was in Holy Cross Cemetery, Yeadon, Delaware County, Many strikers and their wives County. Many strikers and their wives went to the cemetery in special trolley

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS BEQUEATHED TO CHARITY

Mrs. Nannie D. Conarroe Leaves Large Amounts to Churches and Other Institutions-Other Wills Probated

Churches and charitable organizations benefit to the extent of several hundred thousands of dollars through bequests con-tained in wills probated today by Register

The will of Mrs. Nannie D. Conarroe 1701 Spruce street, leaves \$75,000 in trust, the income to be paid to the Church of St. Peter's-by-the-Sea, Bald Head Cliff, Maine; \$20,000 in trust and a tract of land in Maine for a public library in Ogunquiet viilage, Wells, Me.; \$30,000 to the Home of the Merciful Saviour for Crippled Children; \$30,000 to All Saints' Springwill Cottage, Springwill, Nova Scotla; \$10,000 to St Thomas's Protestant Episcopal Church Winn, Me.; \$20,000 to the bishops of the Protestant Episcopal diocese of Maine; \$20,-000 to St. Peter's Protestant Episcopai Church, Third and Pine streets; \$10,000 to the Bishop White Prayer Book Associa-tion; \$10,000 to the Bishop White Parish Library Association; \$10,500 to the Church of St. James the Less, Falls of Schuylkill.

The will of Susannah E. Nead, Ninth and Chestnut streets, disposes of property val-ued at \$132,000. The charitable bequests include \$2000 each to the Little Sisters of the Poor, Eighteenth and Jefferson streets Rush Hospital for Consumptives, the Free Hospital for Consumptives and Home for Incurables; \$1000 to the Association of Perpetual Adoration and Work for Poor Church, Convent of Notre Dame, and \$3000 each to St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum, St. Vincent's Home, St. Vincent's Home and Maternity Hospital, Catholic Home for Destitute Children, St. Joseph's Home for Destitute Children, St. Joseph's Home for Homeless Industrious Boys, Society of St. Joseph, for the education and maintenance of poor orphan children; American Society for Visiting Catholic Prisoners and St. Joseph's College; \$10,000 to St. Vincent de Paul Societies, \$2500 for erecting chapels and \$3000 for the Missionary Fund.

and \$3000 for the Missionary Fund.
Other wills probated were those of Robert
D. Wood, 1218 Walnut street, which, in
private bequests, disposes of property valued at more than \$100,000; Alexander P.
Robinson, New York, \$4550; Amelia Carisle, 510 South Forty-fourth street, \$20,666; Allen Shoemaker, 914 North Eighth
street, \$26,000; Mary J. Madison, 2238 Turner street, \$10,000; Catharine McPollen, 203
North Slaty-second street, \$4200; William
M. Link, 5400 Epucos street, \$2500; Auisland, 3640 Epucos street, \$2500; Auisland, 3640 Epucos street, 3500; Auisland, 3640 Epucos street, 3650; Auisland, 3650 Epucos street, 3650;

PHILADELPHIA'S DOPE FEEDS ADDICTS IN WEST

Ralph Oyler, Special Agent, Returns From Round-Up of Fiends in California

The bulk of the morphine, heroin and coom Philadelphia, according to the findings of officers of the Internal Revenue Department, who have just completed a clean-up of the dope traffickers of California.

The Philadelphia narcotics are shipped to little Mexican town called Tia Juana and n smuggled over the border into Callforma by agents of the dope syndicate.

Ralph Oyler, special agent for the Treas ury Department at Washington, returned to Philadelphia today after a thrilling ex-perience covering two months among the dopesters in the West. Before he left the Pacific coast Gyler brought about the ar-rest and conviction of cleven of the biggest drug dispensers in California. In an optum den in San Jose he held off cleven Chinese rmed with knives until the arrival of the

Oyler employed the same methods in California that he used several months ago in Philadelphia to round up the dopesters. He went late the underworld of San Francisco as "Toledo Johnny" and became the companion of slaves of the drug habit. To make his role of "dope" fiend seem real, Oyler had internal revenue officers arrest him with other addicts in a raid on a him with other addicts in a raid on a "dope" joint. This made him "solid" with the members of the dope ring. It was while he was playing the role of "Toledo Johnny" that Oyler learned of a plan to smuggle a large consignment of narcotic drugs over the Mexican border into California. This consignment included 800 ounces of cocaine, 1100 cans of opium and large quantlties of morphine and heroin.

Oyler notified Governor Cantu, of Lower

California, and in a raid on the head-quarters of the dope ring at Tia Juana a Chinese smuggler and a Mexican policeman were killed and several Chinese were

MET AT FRIENDS' WEDDING:

Sister of Detective Geonnotti Was Serving as Bridesmaid When Introduced to Bridegroom-to-be.

A romance that started a year ago this afternoon at 4 o'clock will result today in the marriage of Miss Irone Geonnotti, twenty years old, sister of City Hall De-tective Geonnotti, to Ernest Venefil, of \$10 Passyunk avenue.

The bride-to-be was serving as bridesmaid at a wedding on February 26 last, when she and Venefil were introduced. Miss Geomotti will wear the same dress this afternoon which she were at the introduction. The wedding will take place at the Church of St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi. Seventh and Montrose streets. Mon-signor Isoleri will officiate. The ceremony will be followed by a reception at Lyric Hall, Sixth and Carpenter streets, to which prominent Italians have been invited.

Miss Rose Fredericko will be bridesmald and Joseph De Campio will serve as best man. Following their honeymoon the couple will live at 633 Carpenter street, across the street from the bride's present home at 628



ERNEST VENEFIL

Their wedding this afternoon is the climax to a romance which began one year ago today when they met at a wedding where Miss Geonotti tras a bridesmaid. Mr. Venefil lives at 810 Passyunk avenue.

BOYCOTT SENDS PRICES TUMBLING

Action of Nation's Consumers Brings Figures Down, Washington Says

GREGORY PUSHING PROBE

Determined to Obtain Jail Sentences as Example to Speculators

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. Food prices went tumbling today when 281 carloads of foodstuffs arrived n New York and broke the "corners" which had been existing for weeks.

Onions, selling at \$14 and \$15 a barrel a week ago, today were sold for \$8 and \$9. Potatoes last week commanded \$10.50 and \$11.50 a barrel, but today they were obtainable at as low as \$7.50 a barrel.

Florida potatoes arrived on the market today and sold for \$3.50 a basket, a price lower than that at which other potatoes sold on Saturday.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 .- An unplanned t well-enforced nation-wide boycott by issumers already is reducing the prices of odstuffs. This in spite of the fact that no action yet has been taken against the speculators by State or Federal authorities.

Reports reaching the Department of Agriculture today indicate that potatoes and onions, leaders in the "skyward movement." are quoted in the larger cities today at a lesser figure than on last Wednesday when the situation became most acute. day, when the situation became most acute. It also is reported by the agents of the department that the market everywhere has absolutely failen flat as a result of the general understanding by the consumers. n consequence many wholesalers, loaded to the guards with foodstuffs of all sorts which they have been holding for highest prices, are said to be anxious to unload before spring foodstuffs are in sight from the South and the Pacific coast. It was stated officially, however, that this relief was probably not of a permanent

nature and that it will in no way check the operations of the Department of Justice. That department is continuing its investigation with a view of the criminal prosecu tions which bave been promised by At-torney General Gregory. All Federal at-torneys throughout the country have been instructed to prosecute violations evidence of which is in their possession without de-lay. And, if this evidence can be used to better advantage in State Courts, they have been authorized to turn it over to local officials. The position of the Administra-tion in the present crisis is declared to be that a few convictions, with jall sentences, would send prices tumbling down,

Chairman John J. Fitzgerald, of the House Appropriations Committee, has not abandoned his fight against an appropriation of \$400,000 urged by President Wilson for an investigation of the high cost of living by the Federal Trade Commission. He was today lining up Democrats to vote against the Borland amendment to provide for the food inquiry when the sun-dry civil bill comes up on its final passage, insisting that such an investigation

ould be useless.
Representative Borland scored only emporary victory Saturday night when the House in committee of the whole voted eighty-three to fifty-one to adopt his amendment giving the Trade Commission THEY WILL MARRY TODAY half a year's time to find out if food corporations are violating the antitrust law almost half a million dollars and more than

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE BEGGED TO SELL FOOD

NEW YORK, Feb. 26 .- Representatives of 126 unions and Socialist and women's organizations today planned to urge upor Governor Whitman a legislative appropria-tion of \$1,000,000 to \$10,000,000 to be used for purchase of food which would be sold at cost to the poor.

While officials predicted a break in prices oon, and city investigations revealed a onstantly increasing pressure on families with small incomes, the army of protescontinued its campaign today

A school strike to center attention on the hardships endured by the children of the East Side was proposed. The boycott plans in the East Side were so tightly drawn that retail poultry dealers decided to close shop When slaughterhouse owners voted against this procedure women who have been eting retail stores were shifted to slaughter

house picket duty.

Mrs. Ida Harris, who was a leader in the march on City Hall last week, made a spirited attack on her husband, a grocery spirited attack on her husband, a grocery proprietor, when he spoke against closing of grocery stores before the Hebrew Retail Grocers' Association. She led the women at the meeting from the hall in a body. The grocers voted against closing, but approved the boycott of potatoes, onions and lima beans. and lima beans.

After reporting that his investigators found no actual starvation conditions, Health Commissioner Emerson in a statement today said that unless wages were raised or food conditions bettered "there would be a constantly increasing number of people whose health will be jeopardized by their inability to buy sufficient nourish-ing food at the present prices."

BALTIMORE SCOURS COUNTRY FOR PRODUCE

BALTIMORE, Md., Feb. 26 .- Twenty-odd BALTIMORE. Md., Feb. 26.—Twenty-odd five-ton and seven-ton trucks of the city departments will be sent out into the contiguous counties to gather in farm products in Baltimore's move to help smash tife corners in foodstuffs. This was decided upon by the board of estimates at a meeting in Mayor Preston's home, when tentative plans were drafted for cutting in under the exorbitant prices. The board will meet again later today to whip its plans into shape. The trucks will be sent to the various market houses and the produce soid "right over the curb" at "cost" figures. Upwards of twenty-five per cent, it is expected, will be cut from the current retail prices.

S. P. C. A. ELECTION ROW POSTPONED BY COURT

Complainants Fail to Perfect Contest Charging Frauds, and Attorneys Agree to Delay

No action resulted today, when court opened, in the contest between factions of the Woman's Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Crueity to Animals in dispute over the recent election.

The victors in the election were to have made answer today to the charges of the defeated faction that the victory of the other side was due to "ruthless, illegal and improper" pruceedings.

James J. Breen, attorney for the complainants, did not succeed in obtaining service of warrants on all defendants, and the state of the contest of the complainants of the complainants.

MAYOR FOR SALE OF FOOD AT COST

Smith Approves Director Wilson's Plan to Seek Legislative Authority

GOVERNOR WILL ASSIST

Brumbaugh Willing to Rush Measure and May Name Price Probe Board

Concerted action to remedy the food sit-uation in Philadelphia has been taken by both city and State officials. Mayor Smith has sanctioned a bill to be

introduced into the Legislature tonight which would authorize Councils to buy and sell food at cost if necessary. The bill was suggested by Director Wilson as a result of the recent food riots in South Philadel. The bill will be introduced by Represen-tative Edwin R. Cox. Every effort will be made, it was said, to rush it through.

Governor Brumbaugh announced that he was heartly in favor of any measure that would reduce the high cost of living and relieve the suffering it had caused.

"I shall gladly sign such a bill," the Gov-ernor said, "and do all I can to rush it through the Legislature."

Governor Brumbaugh also said he had been considering the advisability of appointing a commission to investigate the prices for food in this city. MAYOR WIRES APPROVAL

The bill would permit establishment of food distribution centers throughout the city to fight existing food prices. It was drafted by Director Wilson after an exchange of telegrams with Mayor Smith, now in Florida. Several local commission merchants already have anticipated a drop in food prices. The prices will drop slightly this week, it was said, owing to increased shipments.

warmer weather and receipt of heavy food supplies from the West. Another plan to aid the public in the present high cost of living "crisis" has been evolved by the Philadelphia Retail Grocers' Association. At a meeting of the executive committee of the association it was decided to ask delegations of housewives from the zone where the food rice. wives from the zone where the food riots occurred to attend a conference during the first two days of the Philadelphia Food Fair, which opens March 5 in Horticultural

RIOT SECTION NOW QUIET The food riot section of South Philadel-phia was quiet this afternoon. Fish markets and butcher shops on South Fourth and South Seventh streets closed at noon. In view of the general turmoil, the butchers

say they will not open for the present Mrs. Fannie Goldberg, of 419 Durfor street, who has taken a prominent part in the food agitation, said that many per-sons downtown were considering the advisability of taking their children from school Asked how such a more would improve the situation, she said it would simply be another reminder to the authorities that something must be done quickly to relieve the suffering due to food shortage and high

THE MUNICIPAL PLAN Director Wilson, discussing the food situ-

thorizes Councils it is the intention of the Mayor to have an appropriation made to the Department of Supplies, this money to be used for the purchase of the necessities of life. It is impos-sible at this time to give the exact amount of this appropriation, but this will be determined later. When the money becomes available it is the intention to establish stations through out the city at places where they are most needed. These stations will be the distributing points for the food products purchased by the city, and through them the suffering caused by the present high prices will unquestion-ably be relieved.

It is our belief that there is no real shortage of foodstuffs, notwithstanding the fact that the price has increased abnormally. The present plan of action, as far as Philadelphia is concerned, will overcome the present condition, so that the unscrupulous food manipulators will not be able to corner the market and create suffering for the purpose of selling their products at outrageous prices. Every effort will be made by the officials of this city to see that our citizens obtain what they

need and at a fair price. Instead of marching on City Hall today 15,000 strong, as at first suggested, leaders of the housewives of the downtown section last night announced that it had been cided to postpone the parade and instead hold two preliminary mass-meetings to-night to decide the date of the march, one conference, the largest, at 55 Reed street at 8 o'clock, under the direction of the Socialist party of Philadelphia, in connec-tion with about 100 other organizations. and the other, at the same hour, in Mer-cantile Hall, Franklin street, above Poplar. A chairman will be elected at the Reed street mass-meeting and a definite program

Just "Spuds"

arranged.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—The first lower-ing of food prices as a result of New York's war on the increasing cost of living came in a slump in potato quotations of from seventy-five cents to one dollar a bushel

NEW YORK. Feb. 25.—A boycott on po-tatoes and onions was declared by the Wil-liamsburg Branch of the Mothers' Anti-High Price League in New Plaza Hall. Brooklyn, last night.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Potato boycotts, to bring the lordly price of spuds down to a lowly price, have started in Chicago hos-

pitals, asylums and homes.

At three hospitals, four institutional homes and in households in the congested districts, the fight to bring down the price of potatoes by abstaining from their use was inaugurated on the suggestion of Health Commissioner Robertson, who said "a real boycott will knock the price of the state of the said that the said the sai

potatoes into a cocked hat in a week. MAUCH CHUNK. Pa., Feb. 26.—Farmers throughout this county are demanding \$2.50 a bushel for their potatoes in their cellars, and are not anxious to sell at that price, believing they will go higher.

Many families and some communities have boycotted the tubers, substituting cheaper articles of food.

SOMERSET, Pa., Feb. 26.—The market value of potatoes in Somerset has been in-flated to the extent that the tubers are supplanting the precious metals as a medium of exchange. For two bushels of potatos one of the leading grocery establishments in the town advertises that it will give the following merchandise:

"Twenty-five-pound anck of flour, poss-of cores, two neurons of evaporated per-