

# THE FLACK FRAUD.

The Chief Conspirators in the Case Indicted.

## JUDGE BOOKSTAVEN CENSURED.

Fraud, Deceit and Collusion Characterized the Proceedings—Dangers of Judicial Negligence and the Present Code in New York Divorce Courts Pointed Out—A Matter of Grave Public Concern.

NEW YORK, Oct. 1.—As announced in these dispatches last week, all the parties in the Flack bogus divorce conspiracy are indicted. Judge Bookstaver is severely censured, but he could not be indicted owing to his judicial position. The grand jury came in with a long presentment and indictment for the following: Sheriff James A. Flack, William Flack, Ambrose Monell, Joseph Meeks, Mrs. Raymond.

### Gross Irregularities.

In addition to handing in indictments, the grand jury presented a supplemental report which says: "This alleged action for divorce from the first step to the final decree was characterized not only by gross irregularities, but by fraud, deceit and collusion. That such an action could be so conducted, facilitated and concluded in one of our highest courts of record is a matter of grave public concern, and it behooves the judges and officers of our courts and all officials charged with the administration of our laws to see to it that like practices do not prevail in other cases."

### Dangers of the Divorce Courts.

"We call the attention of the legislature and the courts to the fact that while consent, connivance, or collusion, as to the commission of adultery is expressly prohibited, yet an action of divorce may be instituted and maintained by consent and collusion of the parties thereto. We consider that the practice of appointing referees in divorce cases is most pernicious and is conducive to the very dangers and abuses which the Flack case has exposed."

### Judicial Negligence.

"We do not impute to Judge Bookstaver corrupt action in the sense of profit or gain. Such actions alone are not the only means by which the bench may be degraded and judicial usefulness impaired. Neglect, remissness and complaisance to friends are liable to produce like results. We are of the opinion that among other things the crime of conspiracy has been committed."

"The conspirators, from their position in life, their knowledge and experience, have been enabled to so shroud their actions that an understanding and discovery were made exceedingly difficult."

### Bench Warrants Issued.

Bench warrants were issued for the sheriff and the others indicted with him and all will appear in court except Civil Justice Monell, who is too ill to leave his bed and who will furnish bail for his subsequent appearance.

The indicted persons profess to be surprised at the action of the grand jury.

### Poor Prospects for Rotterdam Strikers.

LONDON, Oct. 1.—The attempt of the Socialists to run the strike of the Rotterdam dock laborers has failed utterly and the strike itself is likely to take a similar turn, partly owing to their interference. The dispersed portion of the town is so thoroughly guarded by troops and effectually covered by the guns of war vessels moored in the river under which armed forces can be landed at a moment's notice as to preclude any idea of success on the part of the strikers by violent means and the ranks of the men who have taken the strikers' places are filling up rapidly. John Burns sent £25 from London for the relief of the strikers, but aside from the contributions to the strike fund have been surprisingly small.

### Cowhided the Poor Walker.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 1.—William C. Young, floor walker for a Broadway dry goods house, was publicly cowhided in the store by Mrs. Baron, wife of Abraham Baron, the telegraph editor of The Westliche Post. Young's offense seemed to be in engaging himself to marry Miss Jennie, the daughter of the indignant lady, while he still had a wife in England. Mrs. Baron, pleased the lash repeatedly while a circle of under clerks gathered around to witness the fun. Young finally dashed from the store and escaped.

### Died of a Rattlesnake Bite.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Oct. 1.—At Titusville, Fla., W. H. Adams, a postal clerk, accidentally stepped on a rattlesnake as he was walking on the public highway about midnight. The snake bit his leg in Adams' leg. He twisted a handkerchief about the wound and hurried to a physician, who cupped the wound and administered whiskey freely. The treatment was of no avail, and Adams, after intense suffering, died.

### Chang Yeng Hoon's Farewell.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1.—Chang Yeng Hoon, the retiring Chinese minister, presented his letters of recall to the president. He was accompanied by Secretary Blaine and Shu Chuen Pon, first secretary of legation, and Liang Shung, an attaché. The new minister, who arrived in Washington last week, will be presented at an early date.

### Fifty Persons Killed and Injured.

ROME, Oct. 1.—Two express trains running in opposite directions between Naples and Foggia, came into collision while running at a high rate of speed through a tunnel. Twenty carriages were smashed and fifty persons killed and injured.

### Mrs. Blaine, Jr., Will Recover.

NEW YORK, Oct. 1.—The statement published that Mrs. James G. Blaine, etc., is so ill that she cannot recover is pronounced untrue. Her attending physicians say that though she is very sick there is every chance of her recovery.

### Tormenting Christians in Crete.

LONDON, Oct. 1.—Information is received here that Turkish troops in Crete are cruelly tormenting the Christian inhabitants without provocation. Two women were inhumanly treated by soldiers and one was thereafter killed.

### Assassinated by Masked Men.

ATLANTA, Ga., Oct. 1.—John Duncan, colored, was assassinated near Spring Place by masked men, a white man living in the same house is supposed to be the cause.

## ROASTED IN MOLTEN METAL.

Terrible Casualty at Braddock, Pa. Several Lives Lost.

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 27.—Furnace "C" of the Edgar Thomson Steel works, at Braddock, was not working satisfactorily yesterday, and at 7 o'clock last evening Capt. W. R. Jones, manager of the steel works, together with six of his men, went to work to remedy the trouble. It was discovered that a hard crust of cinder had formed inside of the furnace. An orifice fifteen inches in diameter was made through the side of the furnace stack, which is eighty feet high and twenty in diameter. Through this hole a heavy iron bar was used to break the cinder crust.

In an instant the crust gave way and a perfect river of molten iron and cinder rushed through the aperture, literally covering Capt. Jones and his workmen in a sea of flame and hurling them in all directions. Capt. Jones was picked up from the sand pit fully forty feet from the shock. The others were lifted about the same distance in other directions. A Hungarian who was in the party has not yet been found.

The fatally burned are: Mike Quinn, fireman; Harry Connell, probably fatally burned; Patrick Burns, seriously burned; John Ness, seriously burned. Capt. Jones is terribly burned and his physicians are apprehensive but hope full.

The scenes immediately following the accident are almost beyond description, the immense stock house being fairly overflown with the seething liquid fire. The injured were brought to the hospital here. The damage to the furnace property is not great.

### Capt. Jones Dead.

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 29.—Capt. W. R. Jones, the general manager for Carnegie's extensive Edgar Thomson steel works at Braddock, who was so badly burned at last Thursday's explosion at that works, died at the Homeopathic hospital from the effects of his injuries.

### Wrangling Over a Reward.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Oct. 1.—When Farmer McClure and Stable Boss Flanagan were murdered on the mountain road above Wilkes-Barre last October, the county commissioners offered \$1,000 reward for the capture of the murderers. Red Nosed Mike alone has been brought to justice, and only about \$200 of the stolen money has been recovered. Now a big squabble has been begun for the reward offered by the county commissioners. Capt. Lindner assigned his claim and that of the Pinkerton men to County Detective Hefferman and Lehigh Valley Detective O'Brien, who aided them in the work, but the commissioners have been restrained from paying them, local Detectives Roberts and Baines claiming that they first arrested Rizzolo, and are therefore entitled to the reward. An injunction has been served on the commissioners, and a protracted legal fight is anticipated.

### Texas Fever in Erie.

ERIE, Pa., Oct. 1.—The Texas fever has broken out in the southeastern part of the city with fatal effect. That section of the city was infected by a herd of Texas steers shipped here by Armour & Co. The cattle broke away and attacked men and children, creating a panic. The entire territory covered by the cattle is under the ban of the disease and a score of milk cows have died within forty-eight hours and as many more are deathly sick. The fact that a dairyman's stock is stricken has created a panic among the patrons of his dairy.

### Saved by Being Late.

SCRANTON, Pa., Oct. 1.—The thoughtfulness of a boy named Langan, who discovered two horses tangled up on the ties of a railroad crossing between Pickwick and Archbald saved a crowded Delaware and Hudson passenger train from an awful disaster. The boy hurried to the Archbald depot and warned the agent, who telegraphed to Pickwick, catching the train as it pulled into the station ten minutes late. Had it been on time the result would have been terrible.

### A Lumber Dealer Killed.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Oct. 1.—George Barney, engaged in the lumber business here, was instantly killed in the northern part of the city. He was out driving when his horses were frightened by an electric street car, and, jumping from the vehicle, his head struck a telegraph pole, causing immediate death. He was 38 years old and leaves a wife and four children.

### Powder Mill Explosion.

POTTSVILLE, Pa., Sept. 27.—The Laffin & Rand powder mills at Cresona, three miles below this city, blew up. The explosion was terrific in force. William Schropp, Samuel Stotef and Henry Reed were killed, and a number of other workmen injured. Nearly all the window glass in Cresona was shattered and the concussion was sensibly felt in this city.

### A Young Lady's Suicide.

FRANKLIN, Pa., Oct. 1.—Yesterday afternoon a note was found in the room of Miss Minnie Robinson, the 18-year-old daughter of Robinson. It was penned by the young lady and said that her body would be found in French creek. Relatives proceeded to the spot mentioned and found the girl's body lying in the shallow water.

### A Christening Ends in a Riot.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Oct. 1.—A Hungarian christening at Allport, No. 16 colliery, four miles from here, ended in a riot in which a Hungarian named Mike Ketch was killed and two others seriously hurt. Four of the rioters are in jail and police are looking for others. It is not certain that the murderer has been arrested.

### Carried to Jail on a Stretcher.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Oct. 1.—Seely Zepkin, the murderer of his wife and mother-in-law in this place on Sept. 22, has been taken to the Bellefonte county jail. Seely, it will be remembered, attempted suicide after the killing. He is in such a condition that it was necessary to carry him to the railroad station on a stretcher.

### A Man Burned with the Live Stock.

CARLEISLE, Pa., Oct. 30.—The large barn of Mrs. Dr. Willets, of Harrisburg, near New Cumberland, was burned with its contents, consisting of six horses, several head of cattle, farming implements, hay, grain, etc. The charred body of an unknown man was found in the ruins. The fire entailed a loss of \$10,000.

### The Slayer Exonerated.

ALLENTOWN, Pa., Oct. 1.—Matthias Gruber, who was shot at target practice yesterday by Achilles Becker is dead. The coroner's jury exonerated Becker. Gruber was a member of Company B, Fourth regiment.

## TANNER TO DALZELL

The Corporal Unbosoms Himself to the Private.

### THE COMMITTEE REPORT LEAKS OUT

Smith and Squires Roundly Censured and Tanner Condemned for Gross Carelessness—The Commissioner Grieved by the Publication of His Epistle—Says He Is "in the Soup."

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—The Evening Capital publishes the following: The report of Messrs. Ewing, Campbell and Bruce, the commission that investigated the pension office, though closely guarded by interior department officials, is gradually becoming known. Printed copies of this report are now in the hands of all the members of the cabinet. Commissioner Tanner has one, as has also Maj. Warner and Col. Dudley. By degrees its contents are being divulged. It is known that the report takes up each rating case separately and each rating case is an exhibit in itself.

The Case of Deputy Smith. Stress is laid upon the fact that Deputy Commissioner Hiram Smith, Jr., received over \$6,000 as a rating. This action of his comes in for severe criticism in the report. Whether Mr. Smith has returned this \$6,000 or not, the report does not state. Mr. Smith receives his pension at the Topika agency.

Secretary Noble, in view of the report of the commission, has himself questioned Mr. Smith as to the facts attending the rating. It is not known definitely whether Mr. Smith's certificate of rating is signed by himself as acting commissioner or by Commissioner Tanner. The papers in regard to his case went through during Mr. Tanner's absence from the pension office.

### Mr. Squires Condemned.

The report also condemns Mr. Squires in round terms, especially for his action in making the case special. It states that Mr. Squires possessed the stamp of Mr. Tanner as commissioner and allowed it to papers without the commissioner's knowledge. The number of such cases—a very large number—is given and Commissioner Tanner criticised for his gross carelessness in thus intrusting his official prerogative to a mere private secretary, who violated the confidence reposed in him.

The names of the pension office officials who caused themselves to be re-rated form a conspicuous part of the report. Several were discharged at the time by Secretary Noble and they now point to the fact that the one who received the largest amount of all, Deputy Commissioner Smith, is still in office.

### Removals in Prospect.

Said a member of the board who made the investigation: "There was but one of two things for the president to do, in view of our report—either to dismiss every one of us from the service as unworthy of belief or else relieve Mr. Tanner from office."

The same member intimated that the chief culprits were still in position, but would soon follow Mr. Tanner into private life.

### TANNER'S LETTER

He Says Its Publication Was a Breach of Confidence.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—Pension Commissioner Tanner, questioned as to the genuineness of the letter purported to have been written by him to Private Dalzell, said:

"Yes, the letter as printed is substantially as I wrote it. It was written, however, in the strictest confidence to a man whom I believed to be my friend. A man, under the circumstances, writes that which under other circumstances would not and should not have been written. The letter," he continued, "was evidently stolen. I cannot believe that any man would so betray a friend."

### The Letter.

In the letter above mentioned Mr. Tanner says:

Smith also issued an order stopping all ratings. He did not object to it until after I had rated him and put him in my pocket. I held, and still hold, that he was clearly entitled to it; but it is not contemptible that a man who had had that done for him, and who had acquiesced cordially in his own case, should be so pronounced against the rating of poor devils who, perhaps, from the effects of malarial poisoning, chronic diarrhoea, or some disease of that kind, suffer twice as much as a man does from amputation.

I want to say to you that I did not resign until the president and secretary had both said to me in the same minute that the completed report of the investigating committee, which lay before them, contained no word which could impeach the honesty of my action in the slightest degree. Then I had to consider whether I was man enough to decline to continue in a position where I knew my immediate official superiors did not desire me, even conceding that I could stay against their wishes, which is not all that I have not the slightest doubt but that I would have been removed if I had not resigned; in fact I know it. Noble had certainly pronounced his ultimatum to be my head or his resignation; and, of course, a breach in his cabinet would have embarrassed Harrison greatly.

Now that I have the completed report and have gone through it carefully and thoroughly, I say to you, as one whose good opinion I value, that all "under heavens" they charge me with is too much liberality and too much speed in the granting of pensions. I think you will agree with me that we have had impecuniosity and procrastination enough, so that it would take more than six months of my time to bring it up to a decent average.

Of the future I know nothing. If the boys, and particularly those in Ohio, acquiesce, why it is safe to say that Tanner will be left where he is—in the soup.

### Money in Brick Demand.

NEW YORK, Sept. 28.—The demand for money in the Stock Exchange was more urgent yesterday than on any previous day this year and as high as 10 per cent. per annum was paid by borrowers for loans until Monday. There was no reason for this advance except a bidding up of the rates. Lenders took advantage of the demoralization in sugar trusts to bid the rates up.

### "Shoestrict" Chalmers Nominated.

JACKSON, Miss., Sept. 26.—The Republican state convention nominated Gen. Joseph R. Chalmers for governor; W. C. Mathison (colored) for secretary of state, and James D. Lynch (white) for lieutenant governor. The convention was largely attended and much enthusiasm prevailed.

### Boulangier Counted Out.

PARIS, Sept. 27.—The revising committee met and annulled the election of Gen. Boulanger in the Montmartre district. The election of Count Dillon was confirmed.

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## AUDITORS NOTICE

In the Court of Common Pleas of Centre County, No. 23 August term, 1888, in the matter of the assigned estate of Jacob W. Swook and P. T. Musser, M. D. Assignees. To the creditors of Jacob W. Swook: you are hereby notified that the undersigned appointed Auditor to make distribution of the balance in the hands of accountant to and among these legally entitled thereto, will attend to the duties of his appointment at his office in Bellefonte, Pa., on Monday the 30 day of September, A. D. 1888, at 10 o'clock a. m., when and where all parties interested may attend. Wm. J. SINGER, Auditor.

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