

LICENSE COURT OPEN.

A Brisk Gait Struck by Judges Ewing and Magee at the Starting Post.

SIXTY-SIX APPLICANTS HEARD IN A HURRY.

Alderman Cassidy Keeps His Promise and Makes It as Lively as He Can.

THE SECOND AND THIRD WARDS TO BE FINISHED TO-DAY

Judges Ewing and Magee, sitting as the Court of Quarter Sessions, yesterday morning at 9:30 o'clock began the hearing of the applications for licenses to sell intoxicating liquors at retail, for one year from May 1. Sixty-six applicants were inquired into during the day of 6 1/2 hours, which is especially rapid work.

The petitioners are not so minutely questioned as they were by Judge White in 1889. Judge White went carefully into the personal career of each applicant, questioning him even as to his domestic arrangements, his family affairs and his own personal career. Judge Ewing did nearly all the examining yesterday, he being the President Judge of Court of Common Pleas No. 2. He revealed a wonderful memory of the doings of the License Court in 1888, when he sat with Judge White.

EVIDENCES OF A GOOD MEMORY. In a large majority of cases he recalled the applicant and the reputation of his place, as brought out at that time. He even remembered minute circumstances of complaints made, and had no hesitation in putting them at the witness. He had at hand memoranda from many sources, the license lists of the last two years, the speaking list and the prominent list furnished by Chief Brown, of the Department of Public Safety, and other information.

Judge Ewing inquired as to the premises to be occupied more carefully than he did as to the occupier, though he did not overlook the personality of the applicant. He insisted, early in the day, that a liquor license should be given only to the keeper of a bona fide hotel or eating house. He held emphatically that the sale of liquor should be subsidiary to the furnishing of meals or lodging. He declared that the Supreme Court's directions, that a mere drinking place should not be licensed, would govern the Allegheny County Court. This rule threatens to cut off some of the places licensed by Judge White last year, especially down town, and promises to grant licenses to a number of new people. Judge Ewing displays an accurate knowledge of localities and their histories. He holds that no saloons, however small, and no hotels and boarding houses should be located in disreputable quarters.

AN IMPRESSION REMAINS. The questioning and remarks of the Court yesterday conveyed the impression to members of the bar generally that there would be a liberal increase of the number of saloons, but that the licenses would be issued with care, on general lines of policy, apart from personal favoritism.

Judge Magee listened and watched closely. His questions usually pertained to the bond and to the parties who might be financially backing the applicant. His keen brown eyes seemed to bore into the inner soul of the nervous applicant and to read his most secret thoughts.

A feature of the day was the appearance of Alderman Cassidy, of the First ward, as a witness against a number of the applicants. He had some lively tilts with the men whom he opposed, and was charged by one of them with interference for a political reason. The Alderman, however, generally made his point against the applicant.

The attendance was as large as the courtroom would accommodate. The uninterested spectators were generally young men, who looked like loafers. With one exception, which was caused by a mistake in the printed official list, all the applicants were prepared to respond when their names were called.

MANY LAWYERS PRESENT. There were at least 30 members of the bar present nearly all the time. No person appeared for the temperance organizations or the Law and Order Society. The faces of Attorneys York and Price and of Captain Wisbart were missed. Attorney H. C. Christy looked conspicuously as a spectator for a short time during the afternoon.

At 9 o'clock in the morning the bright but noisy courtroom in the Diamond-Grant corner of the second floor was opened, and in ten minutes all available space outside of the bar was occupied by ragged, lazy, red-nosed idlers, who blinked at the clerks and court officers with open mouths. The bailiffs went about arranging chairs and forcing pushing them backward and forward without any special object, except that they might appear to be busy.

THE GRIND BEGUN.

OPENING OF THE COURT ON WHICH SO MUCH DEPENDS.

The Corridors and Doorways Crowded—Entrance of the Judges—The First Applicant a Woman—No Disposition of the Judges to Dwell on Any Case.

At 9:30 people began to watch the clock. The doorway and corridor outside were thronged. It was four minutes after the appointed time when Judge Ewing, tall and bent, and Judge Magee, little and serious, pushed their way in and ascended to their big, leather-cushioned arm chairs. A hush fell upon the audience. Judge Ewing began talking as soon as he reached the chair, addressing, apparently at one and the same time, the three or four clerks who stood up to hand books and papers to him. He

nervously adjusted his eyeglass, stuck a pen in his mouth and peered around the court. Judge Magee sat down calmly and waded into a manuscript.

"Mrs. Barbara Buch," called Judge Ewing. Then the weather-beaten crier called out his weather-beaten rigmarole, and the License Court was open.

THE FIRST ONE A WOMAN. Mrs. Barbara Buch desires to run a saloon at No. 22 Penn avenue. She is a comely little woman, heavily robed in widow's weeds. Her attorney was John S. Robb. Mr. Buch, in a very meek and low voice, said she kept a three-story brick house, with nine regular boarders, besides whom about 30 persons eat their meals there. Her husband has been dead nine months.

Judge Ewing asked how near she was to another saloon, she said that Patrick McDonough was next door, at No. 20 Penn. The room which Mrs. Buch desires to use as a barroom is now occupied by a grocery store. This first case was heard in just four minutes.

John Bardley, of Nos. 46 and 48 Fourth avenue, a little man with a florid, English face, said he had a new house with 14 rooms, and wanted to keep a hotel and saloon. He said that he kept a saloon No. 2612 Penn avenue 17 years ago. He had since been a machinist for Westinghouse until 5 years ago. After that he kept a brewery and saloon at the Point. Judge Ewing said: "This is a place which would take a wonderfully good man to keep a saloon. It has been a den of thieves and disorderly houses for years. We ought to have somebody to tell us more about this man." In answer to further questions Bardley said he was 47 years old and a bachelor. He admitted that he had kept a saloon and a wholesale license. If he could not get one kind he wanted the other. Judge Ewing remarked that Thomas Nuttridge, the saloon keeper, was one of Bardley's bondsmen.

SAM BOLEY LECTURED. Samuel C. Boley, the proprietor of Boley's Hotel, on the Diamond square, received a sort of lecture from Judge Ewing. As soon as the applicant was sworn Judge Ewing said: "I remember this case well. I suppose Mr. Boley knows the reason he was refused last year. I do not wish to state it publicly." Attorney Henry Meyer and Mr. Boley denied that they had any idea of the cause for refusal. Mr. Boley said that he had 130 people a day. "Yes, I know," the Judge said, "but he was not careful enough." Judge Ewing wrote upon a sheet of legal paper and passed it to Mr. Boley's lawyer, saying: "This is for your private inspection. If Mr. Boley is granted a license we will expect him to be very careful."

After Mr. Meyer had read the Judge's note and showed it to his client, the lawyer said: "My client says that he did not know of anything of that kind being charged against him."

"Then," said the Judge, "he does not keep his eyes open. You accommodate a class of people that requires you to be very strict."

Mr. Boley promised to be good, and the next was called.

NOW A TAILOR'S SHOP. Charles Bobinger asked for a license at No. 43 Fourth avenue. This is between Market and Ferry streets. Attorney John J. Mitchell, the oldest living member of the Allegheny County Bar, stood up with Mr. Bobinger. The latter said that he had occu-

piated the premises for three years. He lives on the second floor, and his sister, a widow, has the third floor. A storeroom on the ground floor, had been a saloon until 1887. Then it was leased to a tailor, who failed to pay his rent, and lately had been occupied by cigar makers. This storeroom Mr. Bobinger wishes to receive permission to fit up as a saloon. The house is brick, three stories high and contains ten rooms. Mr. Bobinger is young and has a wife and two children.

Judge Ewing said: "I know this place well. It is a very bad neighborhood." Attorney Mitchell said: "I have known this man for several years and know him to be a decent, sober man. The only way to reform that district is to put good men into it."

SPREADING TOO MUCH. "No," said Judge Ewing, the only way is to put good men there. The district has improved greatly in the last two years. It used to be so that women were afraid to go along there even in daylight. I notice that Thomas Nutridge appears to be on about half the board we have across in this ward. Clarence Daley is also on this board and on many others. They both seem to be spreading themselves too much.

Jacob Becker was called. He wants a saloon at No. 26 Fourth avenue, at the corner of Ferry street. He keeps a lodging and eating house there. He is a heavy German and got his words out very slowly, but he succeeded in telling the Judges that his lot is 28x65 feet in size, three stories high and contains 23 rooms. Judge Ewing said: "I know what that means: 23 rooms in a house that small."

Becker said that the neighborhood had been cleaned out, and declared that he had sold no liquors since he was refused a license. He did not even sell temperance drinks.

"Did you lose your temperance trade when you applied for a license and were refused?" Major E. Y. Breck asked.

"Yes, I did." That was a little laugh, like a summer shower across a wheat field.

NO ATTENTION TO LAUGHTER. Judge Ewing paid no heed to the pleasantry, and remarked, with a terribly serious smile, "When you tell us that you have 23 rooms in a three-story house of that size, you simply tell us that you have rooms that are not fit to live in."

Judge Magee called attention to the fact that the lady who signed Mr. Becker's bond had her property mortgaged very heavily. Major Breck said that the property was worth much more than the mortgage and that the lady owned other houses in the city. Judge Magee said: "That does not appear on the records here."

THE CASE OF PATRICK J. CALL, a young Irishman, who desires to sell whisky in the rooms at No. 227 Penn avenue, where P. J. Donohoe recently had his political headquarters while he was running for Alderman. Mr. Call is only 28 years old and has a wife and three children. He had been in the brass working business for Charles T. McKenna, on Third avenue. The Penn avenue place is owned by Neil Gatens. Two years ago a man named Curley ran a saloon in the main room, and since that time Michael Gatens, a son of the property owner, kept a poolroom and sold soft drinks.

LIKE AN OLD BIRD. Judge Ewing was not favorable. He said: "A house run like that for years gets like an old bed. It takes more than usual to fumigate it. There is something due to the public by an owner who has allowed his property to be used for improper purposes. His house ought to be vacant."

Alexander Carson, keeper of an eating house at Nos. 88 and 90 Third avenue, asked for a liquor license. He said that during the year he had furnished 23,000 meals and had many lodgers.

Judge Ewing looked at this applicant in a kindly way, and said: "You have the accommodations. You were given a license in 1888, but refused last year. I think the trouble was that when your bar was running you looked too much at the present money you were taking in, and thought too little of the future. At that year's session you were not careful enough. I do not know what was the reason you were refused, but I imagine it was that. Can you bear that in mind, and run your bar as an incident to your other business?"

With unction the applicant answered, "Yes, sir."

ACKNOWLEDGED HIS ABILITY. Matt Cavanaugh said that he had just moved into the building at the corner of Water street and Liberty avenue, where he said that he intended to run an eating house. There are 19 rooms in the building. Cavanaugh used to keep a saloon at No. 84 Water street, but since the Brooks law compelled him to show himself in court, he has been driving a coal wagon. Judge Ewing questioned him closely as to the interior arrangements of the house, where his barroom, dining room and kitchen were to be, and what were their sizes. The Judge did not like a larger room for the bar than for the eating. He said: "A judge in one of the Eastern courts gave an opinion, in passing on licenses, which I thought was good: that there should be, in every tavern, a sitting room and a room for ladies who may stop at the house, and that it ought not to be necessary to go through the barroom to get to the dining room. When do you expect to open your hotel?"

"On April 1."

"I feel a little disposed to know what sort of a hotel is being run there. The sort cannot start until May 1. We know that you have the ability to keep a hotel properly if you will do it."

Alderman Cassidy watched Cavanaugh closely, but did not come forward to object, as many expected him to do.

SMILING, BUT NERVOUS. The next victim was John K. Durr, the well-built and well-dressed proprietor of Durr's Hotel, at the corner of Market street and Fourth avenue. As he stepped to the bar Mr. Durr smiled, but he was very

nervous. The examination was brief, but suggestive, Judge Ewing questioned. "You obeyed the law during the year?"

"Yes, sir; the best I could."

"What did your hotel part pay?"

"I averaged \$65 a day."

"You had too much bar business, I fear. I think there are a great many people who go into your place whom you might get rid of."

"I used the best judgment I could. A man has to use a little leniency on a cold day or something of that sort."

Thomas Devine keeps a grocery store in the house, which he owns, at the corner of Penn and Second streets. The house is two stories high and contains 15 rooms, the lot being 20x55 feet. He said that he had kept a grocery store for 15 years, eight years of which he had been in this city. Prior to that for seven years he had a saloon and grocery in Ohio. Judge Ewing asked:

"What do you propose to keep in this house?"

"We do not license a mere saloon." "Oh, I intend to give meals and keep roomers, if I get a license."

Thomas Delaney is the proprietor of the Hotel Delaney, at the corner of Market street and Second avenue. He was licensed in 1888 but was refused in 1889. Charles Montooth appeared for him. Judge Ewing asked:

"We know the accommodations here. As far as I am concerned, it is a question whether I have faith for the future. Two years ago you were granted license because you had a good house. But you did not keep the right sort of house. You wanted to run it a little too close to the line. You are amply competent to keep the place right if you will."

WHEN HE SHUT UP. "You were to shut up at midnight, and I guess you did not do that."

"But you shut up at 12 o'clock Saturday night with the barroom full of people. You were not careful enough as to whom you sold. You ought not to sell liquor to a man who has not money to pay for it. You ought to have a list of names of all the people who buy liquor from you. You could make enough money without that. Didn't you have a United States license this year?"

"No, sir; I never sold a drop of any liquor."

William Evans, a little Irishman, applied for a license to keep a saloon at No. 10 Market street, which is now occupied by the shoe store of Anthony Wise. For four weeks he has been occupying the premises of E. Smith, at No. 4018 Butler street. Previous to that he was in the saloon business for two years and three months in Chicago, and before that time has been in the saloon business in Pittsburgh. He is unmarried, and admitted that he had little money of his own. He expected, he said, to be backed by a brother, John Evans, and by John Egan. The house which he has in view is a four-story brick and he proposes to keep a hotel and restaurant.

CASSIDY COMES IN. THE FIRST WARD ALDERMAN ON HAND AS SCHEDULED. He Stirs Up the Animals and is Amused When They Roar—Then He Had It In For—How He Made Them Nervous and What He Said.

George S. Fallon, who was licensed one year ago to keep a saloon at No. 13 Penn avenue, asked for a renewal. He is a slim young man, with a smooth face. When he stepped up to the bar Alderman Cassidy went forward and stood near him. This made Mr. Fallon very nervous. Mr. Fallon said that he had kept nothing more than a saloon. He said that he did not keep a restaurant because he could not get the rest of the house. There is not room enough in the building for a hotel. His mother and her family occupy three rooms and two front rooms over the saloon are vacant. Mr. Fallon is unmarried. Judge Ewing said:

"There have been some charges against you, selling minors a charge of that sort. That doesn't even add a probability to its not being true."

"The man before the grand jury that he thought he was 21 years old at the time he told me he was. The man who made the charge brought him in and vouched for him. If a man says he is 21 years old, sometimes I will believe him, but sometimes I don't. I judge by his appearance."

RECORD OF THE DISTRICT. Alderman Cassidy was sworn. He said that within the past five months he had had more information from that district for drunkenness and fighting than he had for five years before that. The property of them said they got their liquor at Fallon's place.

Judge Ewing said there seemed to have been a good many licenses granted in that district.

He said that if he was granted a license this year he intended to run a restaurant in the back part of the house. Judge Ewing remarked: "We don't propose to license a prospecting mine. There does not seem to be any gold there that has proper accommodations."

Martin Foley, a smooth-looking young man, who used to be engaged at spiral spring making, applied for a grocery license. He was employed in the postoffice, asked for a license in the three-story brick building at No. 200 Penn avenue. He said he intended to keep a lodging and eating house. He acknowledged that he had a drink of beer. He had money of his own, he answered, and no other person was interested with him, directly or indirectly.

BIG ENOUGH FOR THE BUSINESS. Then came a big, sturdy man, Michael J. Feeny, who said that he had been a laborer in the city, and then for a time employed in the postoffice, asked for a license to keep a restaurant and saloon at No. 45 Water street. He is a bachelor and lives at No. 229 Penn avenue. The proposed house is two stories in height, and is 70 feet square. He had sold at wholesale during the past year, but wanted a retail place.

W. H. Jacob, No. 7 Union street, had a petition. Judge Ewing said he didn't think much of these petitions from the respectable people in the First ward. Jacob's attorney said the signers were business men in the vicinity.

FREDERICK KULLERMAN, No. 104 Market street, made out a good record and the court took a recess.

THE AFTERNOON WORK. RESUMPTION OF THE GRIND RIGHT AFTER DINNER. Another Array of Applicants on the Terrace—No Change of Tactics on the Part of the Judges—A Rapid Fire of Questions for Some.

At 1:38 P. M. John King, of No. 27 Penn avenue, was called. He is tall, wears an iron gray mustache and chin beard and looks like a Yankee. He did not apply in 1888 or 1889. He has a two-story frame building, 17 feet wide and 50 feet deep. He owns and lives in the property, and "handles meat." Before the Brooks law took effect he ran a saloon for three years, for the first two years under a \$100 license. He would not deny that during those days he sold on Sundays. He said that if he got a license he would run a restaurant in connection with the saloon. King used to live in Canonsburg.

Peter Kolbecker, a short, gray German, who lives in Allegheny, applied for No. 33 Diamond square. The building he wishes

to occupy is four stories high, 20 feet wide and 65 feet deep. He does not occupy the premises now. It contains the Western Dairy Company. Mr. Kolbecker has been for ten years a tailor, but before that he was for 15 years in the restaurant business and said he intended to run a restaurant with his saloon. He said that he had the money and that no other person was interested in the projected saloon. Judge Ewing said: "If I give all licenses who have applied around there, there won't be room for much other business."

NOW SELLING CIGARS. Peter King is at 25 Penn avenue, and had a license until one year ago. Since then he has sold cigars. His place is a brick house with nine rooms. He has three children. He, like many of the others, promised to run a restaurant. "In connection with the saloon." Yes, he said he kept soft drinks. Before he was knocked out he had "about eight boarders." He said he came to the United States in 1881, kept a saloon the first year, but was not naturalized until 1885.

Martin Lrgan, of Nos. 8 to 12 Penn avenue, stepped up with C. C. Dickey. He said he had lived in the First ward 34 years, except four years. "Where were you during that time?" Mr. Dickey asked. "Out in the war." In the Federal army? "Yes," Judge Ewing smiled. For several years Mr. Logan kept a saloon, always paid a \$300 license, and before 1888 sold on Sunday. He did not keep a restaurant. The premises, he said, had been a saloon for at least 50 years. It was a two-story brick, with four large rooms down stairs and six bed rooms above. For two years the house has been occupied only by his family. He said he had not been doing anything, except looking after a little of his property.

"Why didn't you try a restaurant there?" Judge Ewing asked.

Mr. Logan said that such a place would not pay. At Mr. Dickey's suggestion Mr. Logan promised to open a restaurant if granted a saloon license. Judge Ewing said that the Supreme Court had decided against granting license where there was no restaurant or hotel.

ANOTHER OF CASSIDY'S FRIENDS. Patrick McDonough, No. 20 Penn avenue, has simply a saloon. He has been there for 29 years, and denied selling so minors.

Judge Ewing: "Well, how about men who get drunk?"

Mr. McDonough: "I don't sell to them." Alderman Cassidy was sworn and testified that McDonough's place was merely a drinking saloon. He did not even have a lunch counter. Also that an information

to his house. I know some of them to be thieves. I live only eight or ten houses from him, and I pass his place several times a day."

CALLED IT POLITICS. Mr. Hazel responded, with some heat: "I keep a lodging house, and I don't ask a man when he comes in if he is a thief. I admit a few colored people come there, but they stay as decent as white people. As a general thing they are working men. I will admit that a few women stop there. I have 69 rooms, and it is the only way I have to make a living. It is not my business to turn business away. This man is made because I, as a Republican, did not vote for him, a Democrat."

Judge Ewing: "Never mind; let us have the facts."

Alderman Cassidy—Didn't you have a colored man there who was with a white girl?

Mr. Hazel—No, sir. I want you to understand that I am a decent man. I consider my character as good as yours, and I can prove it.

John Heck and Frank D. Larkin both applied for a license for No. 34 Diamond square. The second gentleman is a brother of ex-Postmaster Larkin. The gentlemen are rival claimants of a lease on the place. Each professed his willingness to take out a license, and the attorneys suggested that they might compromise by going into business together. Mr. Larkin's attorney was the son of Judge Magee.

WANTS A RETAIL PLACE. Henry Heck, No. 28 Diamond square, was not bothered much. Oswald Heckman, No. 207 Market street, had been there for 14 years but had not had a license for two years. He had sold at wholesale during the past year, but wanted a retail place.

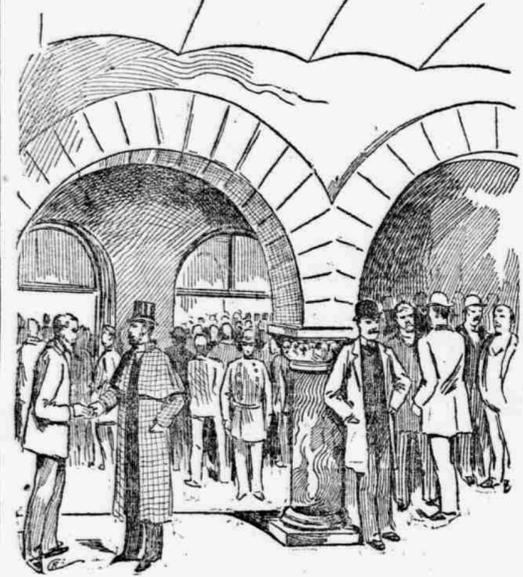
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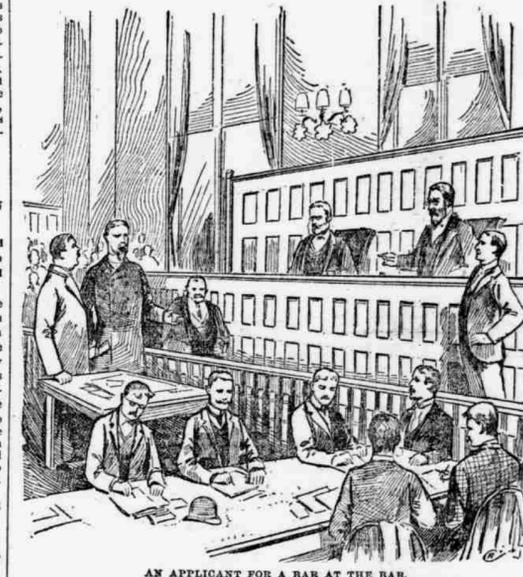
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CROWDS IN THE CORRIDORS.



AN APPLICANT FOR A BAR AT THE BAR.

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