

TAKEN BY SURPRISE.

Uncle Sam's Officials Swoop Down on an Army of Alleged Illegal Dealers in Oleomargarine.

TWO BIG FIRMS NOW IN TROUBLE.

Lots of Evidence Has Also Been Secured Against Wholesale and Retail Dealers All Over the District.

MANY OF THEM PLEAD INNOCENCE.

The First Named Violators Will Have to Pay \$400 for License.

Internal Revenue Collector Warramsted, with the assistance of four Government inspectors, has opened up a wholesale warfare on a small army of alleged bogus butter dealers in this district.

Yesterday the collector took possession of the establishments known as the Western Butter Company, Water street, and the Western Butter Company, of Smithfield street, and will report the result of his investigations to the Internal Revenue Commissioner at once, and await further instructions.

The raid has been in contemplation for some time, and the plans for the same were most carefully worked. The collector obtained information enough, some weeks ago, to warrant the present seizure, and several days since the books of the two firms mentioned were taken possession of.

From this source the names of about 2,000 customers of these houses were obtained, and since that time the local authorities and inspectors have been securing evidence against the dealers, both wholesale and retail.

They claim to have a cardload of facts that will be absolutely convincing when the cases come up for trial.

About a Score in Great Trouble. Among the alleged victims of the trade in oleomargarine are 15 or 20 wholesale merchants in this city, and to say that they are in great trouble is putting it mildly.

A well-known commission merchant said yesterday: "The affair will create a sensation here before it is over. Now, I have been buying from one of these houses what purports to be butter. I paid for that article, and the package in which it was delivered bore no evidence whatever that it was anything else. I sold it in good faith to my customers, and they in turn sold it direct to the customer."

"I received no complaints whatever, and supposed everything was all right. What was my surprise, then, yesterday, to have a Government official walk in and tell me that I would have to take out a Government license for the sale of oleomargarine. I replied that I guessed not, as I did not deal in that class of produce. He only smiled at this, and said he had evidence that I did, and that he would obtain anything of that kind, and he replied that he got it from the books of the firm in question."

Over Three Thousand on the Roll. "Now, I can prove that I ordered butter, and my shipping clerk will testify that there was nothing whatever to show that it was anything beside genuine butter. I have since learned that these officials have obtained over 3,000 names in the same manner."

An call was made at the office of the Keystone company during the afternoon. The place had a queer and deserted air, so far as signs of business were concerned, but at least a half dozen men were standing about the front of the main room. One of them, a member of the firm, was asked if the company was having any trouble with Uncle Sam in regard to the sale of oleo. He replied that the Government officials had taken charge of affairs, and at once advised the collector to see the Internal Revenue Collector.

He then asked if he would give the names of the men who composed the firm. He also refused to do, but added that everything would be cleared up all right in time. He said that he had a "people" took about the same view of the matter, but appeared to be very nervous. He said that he had a "people" took about the same view of the matter, but appeared to be very nervous.

Later a call was made at the office of the collector. The statements made above were substantiated in every particular. He said that he had a "people" took about the same view of the matter, but appeared to be very nervous.

The little often not enforced. "What is the penalty in these cases? Retailers have sold oleomargarine without a Government license?" was asked.

"Well, as a rule, these cases are usually settled by the offenders taking out a license. These cost \$10 each.

"How is it in the case of the wholesalers?" "It is in the case of the wholesalers?" "It is in the case of the wholesalers?"

"In case the two companies whose books are now in the hands of the Government are convicted of any irregularities what are the penalties provided?"

"The parties are liable to fines of \$2,000 and imprisonment for one month to one year."

"This was about all that could be learned, though it is not clear whether the collector had taken time to work the cases up thoroughly, and know what they were doing before they made the seizure."

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TOO MUCH SOUR BEER.

Causes the Wilhelm Brewing Company to Lose Large Amounts—Other Bad Luck Follows, and Creditors Push Their Claims—Trying to Avert an Assignment.

The Wilhelm Brewing Company, of the Southside, is just now feeling the effects of a run of tough luck in the midst of a season of good trade and bright prospects.

Last summer the firm lost over \$5,000 on beer that was condemned as sour, due to not being properly cared for, according to Superior's tender. Other bad luck followed until last night a rumor gained currency that the firm had failed to assign.

The brewery is the oldest one on the Southside. It is located at the head of South Twenty-third street, and owned by Mrs. Caroline Wilhelm, a widow.

The plant of the firm, office last night, and P. W. Lachet, a son-in-law of Mrs. Wilhelm and superintendent of the brewery, was found in consultation with Charles Gieseler, also a son-in-law of Mrs. Wilhelm, and another gentleman. Mr. Lachet was asked if the firm had made an assignment, and said that the move had not been made yet, but was under consideration. He said that the firm had to give up the right, and plans were being devised last night as to how it could be done.

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For some weeks the various electric light companies doing business in this city have experienced considerable difficulty in getting a sufficient supply of burners to meet the requirements of the trade. In some instances the inconveniences have been very great, and many of the firms have been obliged to get their burners from outside sources.

Secretary McGonigle, of the Allegheny County Light Company, was seen by a DISPATCH reporter yesterday in regard to the shortage of burners. He said that the shortage was due to the fact that the demand for burners had increased very rapidly during the past few weeks.

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TROUBLE IN A HOTEL.

William Withrow Deposed From the Duquesne Management.

When the New Manager, Charles Miller, Appeared on the Scene.

A LIVELY TIME IN THE OFFICE.

For a few moments yesterday there was a scene of wild confusion in the office of the Hotel Duquesne, caused by an attempt to withdraw the managerial mantle from the shoulders of William Withrow, and all night two detectives occupied chairs in that popular hostelry to prevent its disappearance before dawn.

It was early in the afternoon, and the office was crowded with guests, when Messrs. J. P. Withrow and Thomas Deegan, accompanied by Detectives Fitzgerald and Murphy, and Mr. Charles Miller, head clerk of the Monongahela House, entered the office. Mr. William Withrow was informed that the firm had decided to depose him, and that hereafter Mr. Miller would be known as the manager.

This is where the confusion was raged on, and a bright, shiny revolver played a conspicuous part. The manager was decidedly angry, and made remarks derogatory to the character of his partners in business. He said that he had been in the office for some time, and that he had been treated very badly by his partners.

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MAY BE A COMBINE.

Important Meeting of Glass Jobbers Here To-Day—Builders' Exchange Looking After the Safety of Buildings—The Other News From Labor Circles.

An important meeting of glass jobbers and dealers will be held in this city to-day. Six of them arrived last night, and went to the Duquesne Hotel, where they will remain for others who will come in this morning.

Those who are here are: George W. Hastings, Boston; S. J. Boch, New York; John A. Fisher, Philadelphia; E. C. Sutherland, New York; F. A. Hill and E. C. Sutherland, Boston.

There are grave suspicions that the object of the meeting is to combine the jobbers, but neither of the gentlemen who arrived last night would say anything about the matter, or if it was to be a combine.

Mr. Sutherland, of Boston, however, said the meeting would be attended, not only by the jobbers, but also by the builders. One of the dealers indicated that the meeting was simply called to discuss matters pertaining to the safety of buildings.

The importers of New York had a meeting this week, to discuss one of the provisions of the new law, which relates to the marking of imported ware. A committee was appointed to better the meeting, and to adjust these matters or to form a combination to control the trade of the country.

Many of the gentlemen were pressed ware dealers, and their presence in the city might be accounted for in that way. The meeting was held in the Duquesne Hotel, and was attended by a number of the jobbers and dealers.

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MORE HAIR PULLING.

The New Water Works and a Street Railway Cause Lively Scenes.

VIVID TABLEAU IN ALLEGHENY.

Chairman Hunter and the Councilmen Have a War of Words.

PURE WATER STILL BUT A VISION.

Councilman Simon last night called up the Allegheny and Bellevue Street Railway ordinance, and a fight in Allegheny Common Council.

The ordinance had been negatively reported to Council by the committee and Mr. Simon insisted the ordinance be sent back to the committee.

Chairman Hunter, at this, read the reasons assigned by the committee for negatively recommending the ordinance.

They were to the effect that the committee had thoroughly investigated the matter and deemed it inexpedient to pass the ordinance.

Mr. Simon insisted that the ordinance be sent back to the committee, and a fight in Allegheny Common Council.

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SELLING BANK STOCKS.

Farmers' Deposit Bank Shares Bring the Highest Price Ever Paid—Stock Bought at Nearly Six Times the Par Value—Allegheny National Aways Up.

A large number of gentlemen who have a sufficient quantity of the wherewith to enable them to buy up stocks and securities for a rainy day, assembled in the Chamber of Commerce building yesterday afternoon, the chief attraction being the sale of shares in the leading banks of the city.

The occasion was not devoid of