

\$60,000 IN BRIBES

Paid by Underwriters to Defeat "Strike" Bills.

G. W. SHELDON AS COLLECTOR.

Senator Grady's Reinsurance Bill "Bought" Through New York Legislature and Bargain Made Not to Repeal It.

New York, March 22.—New confessions of money paid to influence fire insurance legislation in Albany made to State Superintendent Hotchkiss in his investigation at his office here indicate that the New York board of fire underwriters has been for years one of the most prolific producers to the hungry grafters in the state legislature.

With the probe barely under the skin of the scandal it has been shown that the fire insurance companies in the board of underwriters of this city alone paid \$60,000 to influence legislation in the six years beginning in 1901 and ending 1906.

How much more was paid by the companies of this and other cities and states and by the casualty companies Mr. Hotchkiss intends to show. He also intends to show if possible who got the money. It would appear from the revelations so far that the fire insurance and casualty and bonding graft collected by the legislators ran into the hundreds of thousands.

The most important testimony came in the admission by Emanuel H. A. Correa, vice president of the Home Insurance company, of a letter written by him to J. B. Branch, president of the Providence-Washington Insurance company. The letter was dated New York city, July 3, 1905, and in it Mr. Correa said:

We had quite an understanding last year and were very successful in killing a couple of very serious bills that presented themselves through the senate of this state and we hope with due diligence and exercising every possible effort to properly protect the interests of our associates.

In regard to the Grady reinsurance act, it may not be out of place for me to give you in perfect confidence a statement that has come to my knowledge and which I conveyed to the committee on laws and legislation a short time ago, namely, the fact that the Grady bill, having been fought through by certain reinsurance companies and having been bought through the legislature (the amount of the purchase even having been signified to me), has been placed upon the statute books with the absolute and avowed understanding, promise and contract that the parties who put the bill through will defend it and take care that it is not repealed until 1906.

When pressed by Mr. Hotchkiss to state to whom the money had been paid for the passage of the Grady bill and the amount of it Mr. Correa declared that all he meant in his letter to Mr. Branch was that the representatives of the beneficiaries of the Grady bill had employed counsel to go to Albany and "present arguments" for the measure and that these lawyers were paid only \$5,000.

This Grady reinsurance act still stands on the statute books. It was put through the legislature of 1904 and signed by Governor Odell. It was introduced by Senator Thomas F. Grady and was backed by only three foreign reinsurance companies, led by the Munich and the Russia. It was bitterly fought by 240 American fire insurance companies.

To defeat that bill they spent \$10,000 in vain through George F. Sheldon, then president of the Phenix of Brooklyn, and vainly used all of the vast influence at their command to bring pressure upon assemblymen and senators. This Grady act was of tremendous benefit to the foreign companies, giving them an advantage reckoned at 35 per cent over American companies.

W. N. Kromer, president of the German-American Insurance company and vice chairman of the laws and legislation committee of the New York board of fire underwriters in 1900-1 testified that many strike bills against insurance companies were introduced in the legislature in 1903 and 1904.

The introduction of memoranda of payments made by Mr. Kromer's company during 1904 brought the name of the late George P. Sheldon, president of the Phenix (fire) insurance company of Brooklyn into the proceedings. Mr. Sheldon died at Greenwich, Conn., following an exposure of his company by Mr. Hotchkiss.

The payments to Mr. Sheldon were listed as follows: April 28, 1903, \$2,500 for legal service; Sept. 1, 1904, \$2,500; Dec. 30, 1904, \$200.

"Do you know what these amounts were paid for?" was asked.

"They were additional amounts paid to Mr. Sheldon at his request."

"Do you remember his telling you for what he used the money?" Kromer was asked.

"No, I do not. I can only remember that Mr. Sheldon was collecting a fund for expenses incurred in connection with legislation. He was acting for the board of underwriters to defeat hostile legislation. He ran up a bill of \$15,000 for legal expenses."

Mr. Correa of the Home Fire Insurance company, recalled to the stand, testified that he gave Sheldon \$5,000 in two amounts of \$2,500 each.

A receipted bill for \$10,000 paid to the national board of fire underwriters on June 3, 1901, was shown to Mr. Correa. It was for services in the re-

peal of the stamp tax in congress. The witness didn't remember much about it.

Marshall S. Driggs, president of the Williamsburg City Fire Insurance company, admitted subscribing \$250 to the \$5,000 fund at the suggestion of Mr. Hutchins. He also identified two checks of \$1,000 and \$500 that he paid to Sheldon.

F. C. Ahfeld, manager of the Hamburg-Bremen Fire Insurance company and treasurer of the national board, said that the national board raised its funds by assessment upon the companies throughout the country. He spoke at some length on the strike bills and said that he considered the anticompetitive bill the worst of the lot.

Colonel Alexander H. Wray of the Commercial Union Assurance company of London told of the foreign companies paying a bill of \$10,000 to Davies, Stone & Auerbach in 1903. It was the foreign companies' share of legislation expenses, he said.

60 KILLED IN TRAIN WRECK.

Forty-five Bodies Taken From Debris Near Green Mountain.

Marshalltown, Ia., March 22.—Forty-five bodies have been taken from the wreckage of the Rock Island's St. Paul bound train near Green Mountain, and thirty-one who were injured have been brought here. The death list resulting from the crash, which occurred on the Great Western tracks, totals eighty. Three thousand searchers are working in the debris, and efforts are being made to account for a number of passengers who are missing. No easterners are among the dead and injured so far as reported.

The wrecked train was a combination of trains which left St. Louis and Chicago. It was forced to make a detour over the Great Western tracks on account of the burning of a bridge seventeen miles north of Cedar Rapids. It was while the train was moving over this stretch of track that the crash came.

The engine left the track and stuck in the bank in a deep cut at the top of a hill while going at the speed of twenty-five miles an hour. The second engine buried itself on top of the other, crushing it farther into the earth. The sudden impact caused the Pullman sleeper to telescope the smoking car, just behind, driving the sleeper clear through the car. The smoker in turn telescoped the women's day coach. In these two cars the death loss was appalling, there being eighty passengers in the women's coach and almost as many in the smoker.

ASSAULTED HIS PRIEST.

Parishioner Makes Attack in Sacristy of Church in Fredonia.

Dunkirk, N. Y., March 22.—Antonio Mancuso of Fredonia is under arrest charged with making a murderous assault upon the Rev. Toofil Close, pastor of St. Anthony's Roman Catholic church in Fredonia, of which Mancuso is a member.

The assault took place in the sacristy of the church soon after the conclusion of mass and while the priest was alone. Mancuso asked the priest what was the trouble about Alphonso, meaning his cousin and brother-in-law, Alphonso Mancuso, who had not paid for a memorial window of which he was the nominal donor and from which his name had been removed by direction of the priest on account of nonpayment. The priest replied:

"It is not your business, and why do you meddle with it?"

As he said this Mancuso struck the priest a blow with his fist just above the right temple that knocked Father Close down. The assailant continued to pound him about the face and head till he managed to open the outside door and call "Murder!" and "Help!" As several persons answered the call, Mancuso ran out of the church and went home.

Closing Stock Quotations.

Anal. Copper	78 1/2	Norfolk	108
Atchafalpa	115 1/2	Northwestern	154
B. & O.	111 1/2	Penn. R.	130 1/2
Brooklyn R. T.	78 1/2	Reading	107 1/2
Ches. & Ohio	80 1/2	Rock Island	40
C. C. & St. L.	89 1/2	St. Paul	140 1/2
D. & H.	174 1/2	Southern Ry.	127 1/2
Erie	109 1/2	Southern Ry.	29
Gen. Electric	154 1/2	South. Ry. pf.	69 1/2
Ill. Central	140	Sugar	120 1/2
Int. Met.	22 1/2	Texas Pacific	30 1/2
Louis. & Nash.	152 1/2	Union Pacific	180 1/2
Manhattan	129	U. S. Steel	80 1/2
Missouri Pac.	70	U. S. Steel pf.	121
N. Y. Central	125	West. Union	79

Market Reports.

BUTTER—Stronger; supplies of fine butter short; receipts, 623 packages; creamery, specials, 23 1/2c; extras, 23 1/2c; thirds to firsts, 22 1/2c; held, seconds to specials, 22 1/2c; state dairy, common to finest, 24 1/2c; process, firsts to specials, 22 1/2c; western, factory, seconds to firsts, 22 1/2c; imitation creamery, 24 1/2c.

CHEESE—Firm; receipts, 63 boxes; state, full cream, full make, specials, 17 1/2c; fancy, 17 1/2c; good to prime, 16 1/2c; current make, best, 15 1/2c; common to fair, 12 1/2c; state skims, 14 lbs. full make, specials, 14 1/2c; good to prime, 13 1/2c; current make, best, 12 1/2c; fair to good, 12 1/2c; common, 4 1/2c; full skims, 3 1/2c.

EGGS—Lower, but very active; receipts, 2,250 cases; state, Pennsylvania and nearby, henery, white, 24 1/2c; gathered, white, 23 1/2c; henery, brown and mixed, fancy, 23 1/2c; gathered, brown, fair to prime, 22 1/2c; western, firsts, 22 1/2c; seconds, 21 1/2c.

HAY AND STRAW—Firm; timothy, per hundred, \$11.25; shipping, \$6.97 1/2; clover, mixed, \$11.25; clover, 10c a 107 1/2; long eye straw, \$6.75; oat and wheat, 5c a 1c; half bales, 2 1/2c, less.

DRESSED POULTRY—Fresh killed turkeys, western, average best, per lb., 22c; fair to good, 21 1/2c; capons, Philadelphia, 8 to 10 lbs. each, fancy, 22c; under 8 lbs. each, fancy, 20c; small and slips, 20c; Ohio, 7 lbs. and over each, fancy, 25c; 6 lbs. and under each, prime, 22c; other western, 7 lbs. and over, fancy, 24 1/2c; 6 lbs. and under, prime, 22 1/2c; western slips, 12c; broilers, Philadelphia, fancy squab, per pair, 90c a 1 lb. to pair and under, per lb., 60c a 1c; Pennsylvania, 4 lbs. to pair and under, per lb., 24c.

ANNA'S EASTER DREAM

BY LOUISE COOPER

When little Anna went to sleep Upon the eve of Easter day She dreamed of candied eggs a heap And frisky, bishy lambs at play. Plump Dumpty Dumpty, with a bow, Stood smiling on the counterpane, And Ducky Daddles, wondrous how, Was at the foot just to explain. Three baby ducks in noisy play, Who never thought to pardon beg, Cried "Quack, quack, quack, for Easter day!" And then tobogganed down an egg. A rooster and a hen on nest Exclaimed, "Please put us in the rhyme, For we are doing our level best. In working up the Easter time!" Five bunnies, each with eyes of pink And ears so long they flapped like wings, Said, "After all, do you not think That we are cunning little things?" Two lambs, like that which Mary had, Chat froliched as all lambs will do, Said, "We are not considered bad. And, don't forget, we're little too." Five sparrows, proud of their wee size— They never grow too broad or tall— Chirped, "We should surely win a prize, For we are littlest of them all." Two tiny men from Titahum, With good strong arm and sturdy leg, Held steady as a block of gum. A large and glowing rainbow egg; There, standing on it like a queen, With rosy lips and roguish eye, In pink and gold and bronze and green, The girly, curly butterfly.

EASTERTIDE GIFTS.

Some Things to Be Given During the Joyful Season.

The exchange of gifts at Eastertide has become an established custom here is a list of inexpensive trifles most of which have the merit of being either appropriate to the season or extremely simple in design and character:

- A white prayer book.
- Ay daintily bound book of poems.
- A pot of blooming flowers.
- An individual saltcellar in the form of a silver egg.
- A photograph of any of the famous Madonnas simply framed.
- A china fernery filled with ferns for the Easter morning breakfast table.
- A dainty bit of neckwear for each of the girls of the family.
- A white silk Ascot tie for each of the boys of the family.
- A light pair of kid gloves for mother to wear to church.
- A bonbonniere in the form of an Easter egg for each of the little folks.
- A basket of new laid eggs from the country cousin to the city cousin.
- A basket of chocolate and sugar eggs from the city cousin to the country cousin.
- A bit of silver for one's toilet table.
- A bottle of fine extract or cologne.

FIRST COLORED EGGS.

How and Where This Charming Custom Originated.

During the crusades a lady living in a castle along the line of march received some chickens from a man returning from the east. They were of a great curiosity and highly prized by their gentle owner.

The men of her family were crusaders, and their absence was taken advantage of by some lawless neighbors, who commanded her to abandon her home and seek refuge in the Black Forest. There she received protection and kind treatment and lived several years among very poor peasants. She had taken her chickens with her and took great pleasure in giving their eggs to her poor neighbors.

She was particularly interested in the children and devoted considerable time to their instruction. She made a rule to give a present to each child at Easter, but each year she had fewer possessions.

This necessity suggested to her the novel idea of decorating some eggs with bright colors, and to make them still more interesting she concealed them among the dry leaves in the forest. The children were sent to hunt them and were greatly astonished and delighted to find the colored eggs.

WHY BUNNIES BRING THE EASTER EGGS

There was once a naughty bunny Who was always being funny And kept the land about him in a constant state of awe. His father and his mother These pranks would try to cover To keep him out of prison and the clutches of the law.

On one morning bright and early, When the cops were getting sultry, He started to discover what sad mischief he could do. Soon he saw a blackbird's nest, And he could not eat or rest Until he'd dyed the eggs therein a lovely dark sea blue.

He was so pleased at his jolting That he said, "I'll round up polking And ask my little bunny friends to help me gather more." So they stole birds' eggs galore And put them by, in store, Till all the nests were empty and the birds were threatening gore.

Then a burly bunny "copper" Said he'd quickly put a stopper To such dire deceptions as were never heard before. So, much rather than get caught, These bold robbers straightway sought A man who took the eggs to town and sold them in a store.

Now, this raised an awful clatter, All their hin began to chatter And said to steal such pretty eggs a great and mighty sin. But the bandits made it seem There was money in the scheme, So for wealth and sordid profit all rabbits now join in.

So all this explains the habit Why eggs are brought by a rabbit And given little boys and girls on Easter every year. And the lesson seems to show It was all a case of "dough," Yet eggs and little bunnies white have found their proper sphere.

—New York Herald.

PACKERS INDICTED

Eleven Companies to Stand Trial in Chicago.

FEDERAL DISSOLUTION SUIT.

Government Begins Action In Equity to Break Up the Beef Trust—Violation of Sherman Law Charged.

Chicago, March 22.—Indictments were returned against the National Packing company and ten subsidiary concerns by the federal grand jury which has been investigating violations of the Sherman antitrust law. The indictments were returned before Judge Kenesaw M. Landis. Besides the National Packing company the following concerns, all branches of the National Packing company, were indicted:

- G. N. Hammond company, Michigan; Anglo-American Provision company, Illinois; Omaha Packing company, Illinois; Fowler Packing company, United Dressed Beef company, New York; St. Louis Dressed Beef and Provision company, Western Packing company, Denver; Colorado Packing and Provision company, Denver; New York Butchers' Dressed Meat company, New York, and Hammond Packing company, Illinois.

Simultaneously with the announcement of the indictments came the filing of a suit by the government seeking the dissolution of the National Packing company. The action is a suit in equity and marks the beginning of the end of any open combination of the packers under the guise of a single company.

While none of the packers was named in the indictment, they are mentioned in the suit in equity. Those who are made defendants to the suit in equity besides those corporations which were indicted are:

- Armour & Co., Swift & Co., Edward Tilden, Louis F. Swift, Edward F. Swift, Charles H. Swift, L. A. Carton, Frank A. Fowler, J. Ogden Armour, Arthur Meeker, Thomas J. Connors, Edward Morris, Thomas E. Filson, L. M. Heyman and Continental Packing company.

The indictment sets forth that all of the defendants except the National Packing company, which, it is claimed, is merely a holding company, are engaged in the beef packing industry; that they buy live cattle at diverse points in the United States and slaughter them at the plants of the various concerns located in Chicago, Kansas City, St. Joseph, East St. Louis, Omaha, Denver and New York city; that the beef resulting from the slaughter of cattle is shipped to various markets throughout the United States.

Investigation into the affairs of the so called beef trust was announced from the department of justice at Washington on Jan. 21. On Jan. 23 Judge Kenesaw M. Landis summoned the grand jury before him and declared that it was he that started the investigation by notifying the district attorney of his intention of so doing on Jan. 20. He declared that certain "governmental functionaries" at Washington took it upon themselves to claim credit for the investigation.

The grand jurors did not immediately delve into the inquiry, as docket cases were given the right of way. Meanwhile the government officials at Chicago began to work. The actual investigation did not begin until about Jan. 28, when the calling of witnesses started.

After an adjournment of about ten days District Attorney Edwin W. Sims, James H. Wilkerson, his chief aid, and Oliver E. Pagan, the government's indictment expert, went to Washington, where they conferred with officials in the department of justice on the evidence obtained and the forms of indictments which were drawn.

When the government officials returned there was another delay of several days. Then several other witnesses were called, and finally the investigation, after numerous delays, was concluded with the calling of Attorney Ralph Crews of the National Packing company.

Witnesses from New York, Denver, Kansas City, Oklahoma City and other distant points were brought to Chicago to testify before the grand jury.

An important matter considered was the \$15,000,000 loan made by Kuhn Loeb & Co. of New York to the National Packing company at about the time the latter acquired control of the New York Butchers' Dressed Meat company, an eastern independent concern. This concern practically controlled the eastern markets, and the Chicago packers desired to compete. After several costly efforts the combination found that it was unprofitable to compete with the independent, which had behind it a powerful ally in the way of public opinion.

The National Packing company then began the purchase of stock of this eastern company. Cautiously and secretly the stock was purchased until a majority was obtained. Then the stockholders of the eastern company awoke to find the control of their company wrested away in a night. A suit was begun to oust the trust and regain control of the stock, but the suit finally came to naught.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

- Attorneys-at-Law.**
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- D. E. T. BROWN, DENTIST. Office—First floor old Savings Bank building, Honesdale, Pa.
- DR. C. R. BRADY, DENTIST. Honesdale, Pa. Office Hours—8 a. m. to 6 p. m. Any evening by appointment. Citizens' phone, 33 Residence, No. 86-X

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LIVERY.—Fred. G. Rickard has removed his livery establishment from corner Church street to Whitney's Stone Barn.

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