

PAID THE PENALTY OF AN AWFUL SIN.

Angus D. Gilbert Executed for the Murder of Alice Sterling.

An Intimate Friend of the Child's Family, He Lured Her to a Horrible Death.

FIRST HANGING IN TWENTY YEARS.

The Last in Boston Was That of Thomas W. Piper, Who Confessed on the Scaffold to Having Put to Death a Number of Little Girls.

Boston, Feb. 21.—Angus D. Gilbert, aged twenty-seven, a native of Nova Scotia, was hanged in Charles Street Jail at 10:49 o'clock this morning for the murder in Dorchester, April 19 last, of Alice, the eight-year-old daughter of George W. Sterling.

Gilbert's execution was the first that has taken place in Boston since May 23, 1876. The last man to be hanged here was Thomas W. Piper, who enticed Mabel Young, a five-year-old child, into the belfry of a church on a Sunday and murdered her with a cricket bat. On the scaffold Piper confessed the murder of the girl and stated he had murdered two other little girls.

At 10:30 Sheriff O'Brien came in and told Gilbert he was ready. The father and sister were clasped in each other's arms in an instant, but the condemned man kept his nerve throughout.

Before the procession appeared in the jail, Sheriff O'Brien mounted the platform of the scaffold and announced that he desired to see the spectators who had come to remain to leave at once. No one responded, and the Sheriff further asked the newspaper men not to sketch any of the officers who were performing their duty on the scaffold.

As Gilbert crossed the threshold he bowed to one of the jail officers stationed at the door and with a confident air he approached the flight of stairs leading to the platform. Unassisted he climbed them, and immediately went to the trap on which was placed a chair. He sat down as unconcerned as though he was to be presented to the gathering. The straps were adjusted by the deputy sheriff, and Sheriff O'Brien began to read the death warrant.

During the reading Jailer Bradley was adjusting the rope about Gilbert's neck and the black cap over his head. The doomed man did not move a muscle, but a slight pallor came over his face, and about the neck evidently bothered him, but he calmly looked down to show those present that he was not nervous.

The cap and rope being adjusted, Gilbert was requested to stand up, which he did. Sheriff O'Brien spoke the fatal words, ending "hanged by the neck until you are dead, and may God have mercy on your soul," and then pressed his foot on the spring and the unfortunate man swung into the air.

The trap was sprung at 10:49, in the presence of about 200 persons. The execution was witnessed by the physicians 30 minutes after the drop fell, although there was no heart beat after the twenty-second minute. The body was broken and death instantaneous. The sentence was carried out on a gallows over a century old, and upon which had been five previous executions.

Gilbert's sister took charge of the body. The crime for which Gilbert was hanged was one of the most heinous ever committed in the State of Massachusetts. On April 10, 1895, little Alice Sterling disappeared from her home very mysteriously.

When she had returned to her home by 7 o'clock in the evening, her parents became alarmed and visited several of the neighbors who had been in the house, and going to play. No one had seen her. Then began a most thorough search of the surrounding country, but to no avail. The girl was not seen, and Gilbert was one of the most assiduous in looking for the little girl.

The police were notified, and a large detachment was put to work on the case. They met little success for nearly two days. At last a house canvass of the entire district was made, and a woman was found who had seen Alice with Gilbert about 2 o'clock on the day she disappeared.

Gilbert had been for some time assistant ticket agent at the suburban station at Atlantic, and had always borne a spotless reputation among his neighbors. The detectives did not take long to find out that the young man had for years been leading what was practically a double life. He lived with a family about half a mile from the station, and in return for his board did chores around the house. He had a neat room fitted up over the stable, in which he had a cot and a trunk, and in that room he had been living for some time.

In the basement of this stable was found the body of little Alice, buried face down, with but a slight covering of clothes, and in that position she had been lying for some time. The head and face had been hidden into an unrecognizable mass with a hatchet.

The police got a partial confession from Gilbert. He said that while going down into the cellar he had stumbled over the dead body. He said that he became frightened for fear that he might be accused of the murder, and had buried Alice's mutilated remains. He was a close friend of the family, and was often in consultation with both the father and mother of the girl in regard to the case. But he was finally arrested. His trial was long drawn out. His counsel tried to prove insanity. The jury took an hour and a quarter to find a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree, and on December 14 Gilbert was sentenced to be hanged.

MR. CLEVELAND'S CLEMENCY. The President Commutes One Sentence, but Refuses to Pardon Two Convicts.

Washington, Feb. 21.—President Cleveland has commuted the sentence of three years imposed upon John Mays, convicted in Arkansas of introducing liquor into the Indian country, and sentenced in October, 1894, to the Kings County Penitentiary, Brooklyn, N. Y., for two years, with all deductions for good behavior.

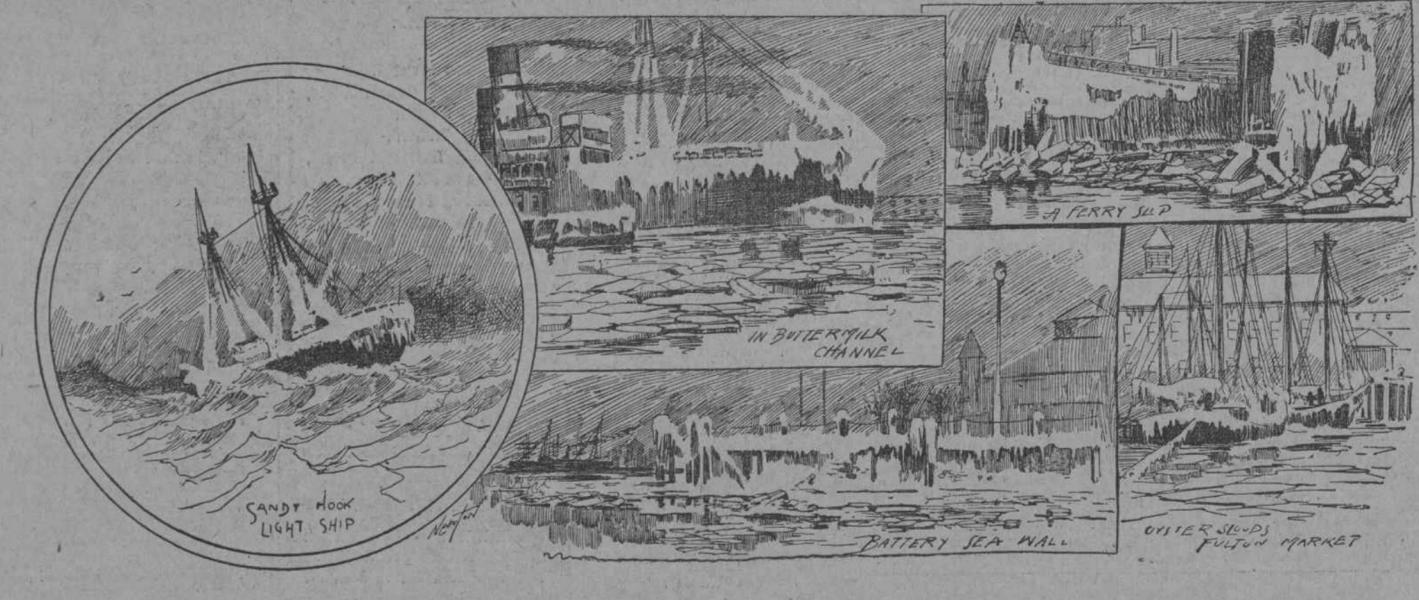
He has denied clemency to Jacob A. Kemp, a Post Office employe in Minnesota, convicted of stealing valuable letters from the mail, and to Percy B. Radwin, convicted in Kentucky of issuing money orders to himself for the purpose of selling them.

In Kemp's case the president's indorsement in part is as follows: "The stealing of mail matter by those who, like this prisoner, are trusted agents of the government is far too common, and I do not regard the sentence in this case in any sense undeserved or severe. I am not willing to give clemency to those who commit such crimes."

Trustees Look Into Hay's Troubles. The School Trustees of the Twenty-second Ward met in Grammar School No. 69, in West Fifty-fourth street, yesterday morning to consider testimony given into the recent charges of tyranny made by the pupils of West Forty-fourth Street School against Principal Hay, and the charges preferred against Teacher W. H. Nammoek for insubordination. Trustee Hertz at the conclusion of the meeting said that there had undoubtedly been insubordination in the school, but that the trustees would not make any of their decision until after they had submitted a report to the Board of Education.

No Road Through Manhattan Field. The rumor that the Park Board proposed to construct a road through Manhattan Field was denied by Colonel Cruger, President of the board, yesterday. He said that no such matter has been officially presented to the board, and he does not know what arguments could be presented in favor of such a scheme.

HAVE YOU EVER? fallen from a lofty altitude. Order from your newsdealer in advance the Sunday Journal, read it, and learn how it feels to fall out of a high window.



Harbor of New York City Filled with Ice.

Ice covers the harbor of New York, rendering navigation both difficult and dangerous. Great cakes of ice filled the bay and rivers yesterday, and ships were covered with a smooth, icy coating. The Battery sea wall present a strange and picturesque sight. It is entirely covered with ice and small bergs are frozen against the piers. Ferry slips were full of floating cakes, which sometimes interfered with the working of the boats. Snow and ice cover the oyster sloops moored off Fulton Market, and the Sandy Hook Lightship looks like a mountain of ice, with two masts sticking out of it.

EXCISE SCHEMERS SCARED

Their Main Hope Is to Force Raines's Bill Through at Once.

Failing in That Attempt, They Will Have Hard Work to Whip Members into Line.

CANTOR OUSTS THE REPUBLICANS.

Vain Efforts to Buldoze or Cajole the Minority into Advancing a Measure. They Prevent a Quorum in the Senate.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 21.—All signs indicate that the Republican excise takers are scared. The Republican excise boards in the country districts are trying to get ahead of the Raines bill by extending all the licenses possible before it throws them out of office. This shows that sentiment in the strongholds of Republicanism is against the bill. Indeed, unless the majority forces the bill through at once it will either require some vigorous work in the caucus to get members in line or the bill will have to be changed in several important provisions.

The hotel keepers who visited the Capitol to protest against the section that opens the way for a confiscation of a license left their case in the hands of Senator Page, who says he will make it warm for the framers of the bill unless he is accorded a hearing by the committee.

Senator Higgins asserts confidently that there will be no hearings. It is intimated that the bill is to be changed in the administrative section, and that the provisions for party patronage will be enlarged. At present it only furnishes about 170 places.

SMALL COMFORT FOR OPPONENTS. It is likely that the bill will be printed and copies distributed by Monday night.

Assemblyman Ald, chairman of the Excise Committee, says that there has been no hitch thus far, and that there will be the fullest and freest consideration. He does not anticipate many changes. He agrees with Senator Higgins that there is little likelihood of the hotel men's protest being taken seriously. The committee is determined to throw the responsibility for everything on the Legislature.

The first real sign of the growing fear among Republican leaders for the bill was seen in the caucus this morning. It happened that when Senator Higgins tried to push forward the committee bill to shut off the scheme of licenses, which is being urged so extensively in the rural districts, he was caught without backing. The Republican machine men are particularly anxious about this bill, because the renewals, which are now being made, will cut extensively into the income that will accrue from the operation of the bill.

Senator Higgins first gave notice for a suspension of the rules so that the bill could be read out of its order, and passed on Monday night. Then, when it was reached on the calendar, he tried to put forward, so that it could be in a position to be acted on promptly. Senator Cantor objected to the rush scheme, stating that the bill was opposed by the Excise Board, and that, he thought, it should at least be given the appearance of a decent consideration.

Senator Higgins rallied at the Democrats for causing delay in the progress of legislation.

DOCTORS PUZZLED AT HER SILENCE.

Miss Schaeffer May Recover Her Speech in Ten Days and May Remain Dumb.

Bellevue Physicians Decide That She Is Suffering from Paralysis of the Tongue.

DUE TO NERVES, NOT HER WOUND.

Her Father Thought That It Was a Case of Bad Temper That Kept Her from Answering His Questions and He Reproached Her.

Miss Annie Schaeffer, who was employed in the restaurant connected with a big Sixth avenue dry goods store, cut a gash two inches long in her left hand last Monday afternoon. Her hand was swollen the next day to twice the natural size, and it was treated at the New York Hospital. On Wednesday night while at church she became unconscious, and although revived has been unable to speak since. She was taken to Bellevue Hospital.

Lying speechless on a cot in Bellevue Hospital, Miss Annie Schaeffer tried in vain yesterday to reply to the tearful inquiries of her mother and sister. Tears stood in the young woman's eyes as she made effort after effort to speak, but found herself powerless to enunciate a word.

At last, fearing that the nervous strain might have a bad effect on the patient, the

lastest invention for the benefit of mariners is an apparatus called the eophone, by which pilots and steammen on ocean craft are enabled to hear the signals of vessels either in a fog or heavy blow. One has been attached to the Government tug Daniel S. Lamont, Captain Thomas A. Keyes, whose duty is to see that the garbage scows dump their consignments far enough out to sea to prevent the accumulation of refuse in the harbor. The Lamont is under the control of Lieutenant-Commander Deleahanty, United States Navy, the Supervisor of the Harbor.

The eophone has been successfully tested in a high wind. The instrument which receives the sound looks like an anvil, and is placed on the roof of the pilot house. It extends two tubes, which penetrate the roof and reach a point just above the wheel. At the end of each tube is a transmitting pipe. These fit into apertures on either side of a mask, which is placed on the head of the man using the apparatus, and connect directly with his ears.

When this eophone was tried down the bay recently had a gale was blowing, and there was a sharp squall of snow coming down. The experimenters who tested the mask were the inventor, Della Torre, and Chief Inspector of the National Board of Marine Underwriters R. M. Hanna. Notwithstanding the conditions of the weather, the experimenters heard with ease the noise made by the blowing of whistles and the emitting of exhaust steam by other tugs fully half a mile to leeward. They could not see the other tugs, but unfailingly succeeded in pointing the arrow, arranged for the purpose of guiding the wheelman directly to the positions occupied by the vessels which were used in the trial.

The inventor says he has heard a whistle fifteen miles off, and in fog, when there is no wind, he can hear a greater distance. The echoes of the eophone can be heard when they strike any solid substance, and it is said that a small spar buoy has been picked up in this way.

On Monday she cut a gash in her hand while picking up a broken tumbler. The next day her wound was dressed at the New York Hospital, and on Wednesday evening, feeling no ill effects from the cut, she attended a prayer meeting. At the conclusion of the service she became unconscious, and since that time she has been unable to speak. She was removed to Bellevue, where the doctors decided that she is suffering from paralysis of the tongue. Her recovery from her affliction is in doubt.

nurses in attendance were forced to ask the mother and sister of the sufferer to go from the bedside. Though they were forced to leave the sick girl, they remained about the hospital anxiously inquiring of the nurses and doctors as to the chance Annie had for recovery.

The case of Annie Schaeffer is one of the strangest that the physicians at the hospital have been called upon to treat in years. Strong, robust and seemingly in the best of health, she suddenly became dumb while attending a prayer meeting at the Seventeenth Street Presbyterian Church Wednesday night. Since then she has been unable to speak. Her hearing is as good as ever, but she has lost control of the labial muscles and can not make an intelligible sound.

CUT HER HAND WITH GLASS. She was at work in the restaurant Monday afternoon, when one of the patrons broke a glass. Miss Schaeffer started to remove the pieces and in picking them up cut a deep gash two inches long in her left hand. The wound was dressed in the store, and after it was bandaged she said she felt all right.

After being overcome at the prayer meeting on Wednesday evening, Dr. Max Meyer succeeded in reviving the young woman, and in response to inquiries as to how she felt she said: "Take me home, please." Since then she has not spoken a word.

She soon seemed much better, and was able to walk home with some friends and went into her home alone. She did not bid her escort "good night," but they thought nothing of it, as they believed she was still much upset from her swoon. She went to her room and sat down. Her father and mother had retired, but heard her when she came in.

Some time later Mr. Schaeffer saw a light in his daughter's room and went in and spoke to her. She made no reply, and

PROSECUTOR LEWIS FAINTED.

Assistant District Attorney Worried by Law, yer Brooke at the Flagg Trial.

The trial of Jared Flagg, Jr., accused of renting flats in West Eighteenth street for immoral purposes, was resumed before Judge Newburger, in Part II, General Sessions, yesterday. About a dozen policemen attached to the West Twentieth Street Station testified that the tenants of the houses at Nos. 225 and 227 West Eighteenth street, were of bad character, and that disgraceful scenes occurred there nightly, prior to the finding of the indictment against Flagg, who was the lessee of the premises.

Charles W. Brooke, who appeared for Flagg, was more than a match for Assistant District Attorney Lewis. In the morning he worked Mr. Lewis up to such a nervous tension that the latter fainted in court. A short recess was taken until the prosecutor revived.

Brooke made so many objections to the questions put to witnesses by Mr. Lewis that Judge Newburger was compelled to interfere. The trial will be continued on Monday.

Gilon Is Not Alarmed. Colonel Edward Gilon, of the Arrears of Taxes Department, admitted yesterday that he had been asked to resign, but he did not appear to be very much distressed at the prospect.

As he was stated in the Journal," he said, "the request to resign was made on the written complaint of a man who had to wait before he could be attended to. During the busy hours this is unavoidable, and I think when the Comptroller cools down he will recall his request for my resignation, have been in public business many years and have always done my duty. This letter is simply the complaint of a man who does not understand the nature of our work and the routine which must be gone through before information can be obtained."

Miss Annie Schaeffer, Who Has Lost Her Power of Speech. On Monday she cut a gash in her hand while picking up a broken tumbler. The next day her wound was dressed at the New York Hospital, and on Wednesday evening, feeling no ill effects from the cut, she attended a prayer meeting. At the conclusion of the service she became unconscious, and since that time she has been unable to speak. She was removed to Bellevue, where the doctors decided that she is suffering from paralysis of the tongue. Her recovery from her affliction is in doubt.

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PANIC AMONG CHILDREN.

A Dog, Supposed to Be Mad, Chases the Pupils of a Grammar School.

Little Annie Lowndes and Freda Young Badly Bitten on the Legs.

FOUGHT THE BRUTE WITH BOOKS.

It Was a Friendless Black-and-Tan, and Policeman Doess Emptied the Contents of His Revolver into Its Body.

Grammar School No. 63, at Third avenue and One Hundred and Seventy-third street, had been dismissed yesterday afternoon, and a crowd of boys and girls were walking along Third avenue northward. When they reached One Hundred and Seventy-fifth street a small black-and-tan dog, frothing at the mouth and yelping and snapping right and left, came running eastward.

"It's a mad dog!" shouted half a dozen children, as they scattered and ran in every direction.

Annie Lowndes, eleven years old, of No. 1609 Washington avenue, was walking arm in arm with Freda Young, a year older, of No. 681 East One Hundred and Seventy-fifth street. The dog ran straight at them and leaped at Freda. The girl threw her books at the dog, screamed and

ran up the avenue. Annie started to follow, but fell to the pavement.

"Oh, the dog's biting me!" the girl cried, and one of the boys went to her rescue. He struck the animal with a club. The dog then darted up the street after the other shrieking children.

At One Hundred and Seventy-sixth street the animal caught Freda Young and snapped viciously at her legs. The girl turned on the dog and struck it over the head with a small bag filled with books and kicked it.

"Help, help!" she cried. "Mad dog! Mad dog!" Half a hundred other children were also shouting.

The dog continued to fight with Freda, and leaped and snapped at her face. It was only by the greatest heroism that she beat it off. When she was almost ready to drop with fright and exhaustion Policeman Doess, of the Tremont Station, arrived. He ran up as close as he could, pointed his revolver at the animal's head and fired. The ball went through the dog's head. That didn't satisfy the policeman, however, and he emptied the contents of his revolver into its body.

The two girls hurried home and told what had happened. Annie Lowndes had been bitten severely on the left leg. The blood trickled through her stocking. Freda Young had been bitten twice on the right leg.

The citizens of the annexed district are constantly complaining of the number of stray dogs that run at large. Some families own three or four.

CAUGHT A THIEF ON A FENCE.

He Had His Arms Full of Clothes and Yielded to a Revolver.

George O'Neill, a colored Pullman porter, lives with his wife on the ground floor of No. 45 West Sixty-sixth street. They sleep in the rear room looking out on an area in which Mrs. O'Neill had left a washing to dry Thursday night. She woke up and heard the clothes-line rattling in the pulley fastened to a window, and sat up and looked out. A colored man, with his arms full of clothes, was sitting on the fence taking off more clothes from the line.

O'Neill got his revolver, gave it to his wife, raised the window and told the man to stay where he was or he would be shot dead. In his fright the man fell off the fence on the other side and was caught before he could get out of the area by O'Neill, who turned him over to the police. The prisoner said that his name was George O'Neill, of No. 45 West Sixty-third street. He pleaded guilty to the theft, and was committed to jail.

Miss Van Rensselaer's Funeral. A funeral service was held for Miss Katharine Boudin Van Rensselaer, who died on Tuesday from the effects of an operation for appendicitis, in the Park Presbyterian Church yesterday morning. The Sunday school class of which Miss Van Rensselaer had charge sang in the right hand pew of the centre aisle, and alongside the white cloth covered coffin, as it rested on a bier of white lilies and roses. On the opposite side of the aisle were chief mourners Captain Killian and Mrs. Van Rensselaer, their two daughters, W. W. Evelyn, and the ladies of the Evening family of Rye, N. Y. Rev. Dr. Atterbury, pastor of the church, and uncle of the dead girl, read the service. The burial was in Greenwood.

POISONED BY BANK NOTES. This does not happen to every one! Yet, one unfortunate has suffered untold agonies through handling large rolls of bills. Read about him in Sunday's Journal.

A NEW ATTACK ON PIERCE.

Now Charged That He Rendered Illegal Bills to Westchester County.

Inmates Swore They Were Kept at the Home After They Had Reached the Age Limit.

SUPERVISORS ASKED TO PROBE IT. The Matter Was Laid on the Table Until Next Thursday Because of the Present Investigation into the Home's Finances.

Supervisor H. A. Percival, of Yonkers, introduced a resolution at yesterday's meeting of the Westchester County Board, at White Plains, that is likely to open a new line of revelations in the case of the Westchester Temporary Home for Destitute Children.

Several witnesses who have testified to the excessive cruelties of Superintendent Pierce at the Home have sworn that at the time of these alleged punishments they were more than sixteen years old. Legal commitments of children to charitable institutions do not extend beyond that age, and it is proposed to learn from the records, both of the county and of the institution, whether illegal bills have been rendered for their maintenance. Supervisor Percival's resolution reads:

Whereas, it appears from the testimony taken before the Hon. Daniel W. Guernsey, the referee appointed by the Supreme Court to make an investigation into the affairs of the Westchester Temporary Home for Destitute Children, that several of such children were over the age of sixteen years at the time of their commitments or cruelties, thus inflicting an unnecessary and illegal burden upon the taxpayers of the county of Westchester, and

Whereas, during the time they were so farmed out they should not have been a charge upon the taxpayers of the county;

Therefore, be it resolved, that John Hoag, treasurer of the county of Westchester, and he is hereby directed to report to this board all sums of money paid to the Westchester Temporary Home for Destitute Children, and

That a committee of three be appointed by the board to compare the payments with the records of the institution to ascertain how many were actually in the custody of the Home at the time of such payments, and

That the managers of the Home furnish this board with a statement showing the date of the entry of each inmate, the date of discharge and what period of time, if any, he was absent from the institution for any cause; and that said committee be authorized to employ counsel other than those who have appeared before the referee.

NOT READY TO ACT YET. The resolution was laid over without debate until next Thursday, when it is believed it will pass. One reason for delaying this measure, as given by a member of the Board, is the investigation of the present financial relations of the institution with the county by Superintendent of the Poor Henry Esser. Mr. Esser, upon appointment of counsel, has drawn a stipulation which must be signed by the Westchester Temporary Home, and which will require the institution of the county, before he recommits children at present confined in them. It reads:

Whereas, the provisions of section 1 of article 2 of the State Board of Charities has not been complied with by Miss Adams, superintendent of the Home at White Plains, and

Whereas, the State Board of Charities has passed a resolution that the renewal of acceptance set forth in section 1 of article 2, which is the condition precedent to the right to be regarded by the State Board of Charities as a bona fide compliance of said section under which acceptance should have been made within ten days of October 1, 1895, and

Whereas, the said Westchester Temporary Home at White Plains has applied to said Henry Esser for a renewal of the acceptance of the children of Westchester County, and

Now, therefore, I, Henry Esser, Superintendent of the Home at Westchester County, having examined the commitments of all children who are now retained in the Westchester Temporary Home at White Plains, and

being desirous of complying with said section 1 of article 2 of the State Board of Charities hereby recommend to the care and custody of such Westchester Temporary Home the children whose names are attached to the present stipulation of 1895, previously removed as heretofore provided.

This recommendation to the said Home or renewal of acceptance is made upon the distinct understanding and condition that the said Henry Esser, as such Superintendent of the Home of the County of Westchester, the officer charged with the supervision and care of the said county, reserves the right to remove any of said children from said Home at any time which he may deem best, and that no claim of any kind is to be presented against the Home or the said county, and maintenance of any such child or children after date of such removal.

WANT A HEARING IN THIS CITY. In addition to the above projected inquiries the charges of cruelty against Superintendent Pierce are to be reaffirmed and enlarged upon before Referee Daniel W. Guernsey next week, beginning at the session of Monday. The names of thirty-eight witnesses for examination on Monday were handed to Lawyer Emmett, of the defence, yesterday. The list did not include several children now in the Home, who will be subpoenaed to testify to Pierce's more recent cruelties.

Van Kleeck, Dekman and Marshall, lawyers, are the prosecutors in the case. The hearing on Monday to hold a special session in New York City, probably on next Thursday, for the convenience of many witnesses who live in the city.