

FAKING THEIR MEANS. THE SCHOOL BOARD.

Mayor Says the Present Members Cannot Give Their Time to the Work.

BLUNDER IN THE SALARIES.

Teachers Delegation Calls Attention to a Serious Mistake in the Schedule.

"I'm going to advertise for first-class men who can and will give all their time as Commissioners of Education. The great trouble at the present time is that the School Commissioners cannot give enough time to their duties and the result is they know little or nothing about the detailed work of their important department. I think it would be a good idea to appoint a few women commissioners. We could find some excellent commissioners among the school teachers themselves." -MAYOR VAN WYCK TO A DELEGATION OF TEACHERS YESTERDAY.

A committee of fifteen well-dressed young women teachers waited upon the Mayor yesterday morning. They had discovered a discrepancy in the school budget for 1899, and had called to ask His Honor to have it corrected. The Commissioners knew of the mistake, but they were apparently too busy to give it personal attention. So the women appeared.

The Board of Education, in preparing the estimates, had made a serious error. As one of the young women said, the schedule was presumably based upon the full amount of the salaries for October, without deductions for absences, etc. But the Board had calculated on the pay roll after deductions amounting to \$9,000 had been carried out at the foot of the roster. Owing to this blunder the pay roll would be \$9,000 short every month during the whole year.

"We therefore ask you, in the name of the associated teachers, to have the estimates changed, so that there will not be a shortage," the speaker said. "The budget is closed for the year and cannot be reopened," replied Mr. Van Wyck. "It is too bad that the Board did not take the trouble to look carefully into the teachers' salary account before presenting it to the Board of Estimate, which gave all that was asked for the regular pay roll."

"That is one of the departments of the city government over which I have no control. It was arranged through the Greater New York Charter Commission. In fact, the School Commissioners are a little government in themselves."

"I think there should be a board of commissioners who would be paid for their services, the same as the Commissioners of Docks, for instance, and who would devote their available time to their work. How can a man going to the department for an hour in a week know anything about a salary schedule on which he ought to vote intelligently?"

At this point several of the delegation remarked: "We do not know. There is now no salary schedule. Our old schedule has been repealed and our new one suspended. They can pay us just as they please."

Women-A Good Idea.

"There you have it," continued the Mayor. "The Commissioners do not give enough time to the work to understand it. And I am afraid I shall not be able to do any better for the present. Take the case of Commissioner Allen O'Brien. He has just appointed. He is a first-class man. But he is too much engaged in his business to spare all the time necessary for thorough work. I am going to advertise for some other first-class men who are not so busy."

"Why not give the women a chance?" suggested the spokeswoman of the delegation. The Mayor smiled pleasantly, and then, after a brief pause, replied: "Well, now, that's a good idea. I do not see anything wrong about that. I think themselves some who would make excellent commissioners. They certainly know the way in which the business of the School Board should be conducted better than any ordinary man or woman could. There should be, I think, a committee of a grammar school and one principal of a primary school, at least, on the Board. I should be in favor of having the women continue to work on the Commission, with the understanding that when they have served their terms as Commissioners they could go right back to their work in the schools."

"This won the teachers. They apparently forgot their disappointment over the salary schedule, and their clamor for receiving their November salaries in time for Christmas, and crowded around and cordially shook the Mayor's hand."

THOUGHT WICE-CONSUL WAS MERELY DRUNK.

Policeman Walsh Subsequently Learned That His Diagnosis Should Have Been Cocaine Poisoning.

To the pricked eye of Policeman Michael Walsh the man was drunk, helplessly so, and therefore had to be locked up. The captive, a well-dressed Italian, half-consciously muttered a name which sounded like Gus Dussy, and to Walsh he promptly became Gus Dussy.

The policeman picked him up at One Hundred and Thirty-sixth street and Seventh avenue on Wednesday night. At the West One Hundred and Twenty-ninth street station the prisoner became so ill that he was sent to Manhattan Hospital. There the surgeons put a bielsch on Policeman Walsh's judgment by discovering that the man was suffering from cocaine poisoning. When the patient recovered consciousness he threw away the name Gus Dussy and became Gustavo Tosti, Italian Vice-Consul in this city, which was another black eye for Policeman Walsh's judgment. The cocaine had been administered to him by a dentist. He was removed to the home of the Consul, Giovanni Branchi.

Mr. Keene's Secret Out.

The public for the first time with the announcements made by Keene's Watch Store, located at No. 140 Fulton street (New York). Diamonds had been offered for sale in this country. Watches made by the American manufacturer were offered for sale to the public at prices lower than the wholesale dealers can buy them. Jewelry this year in particular is offered at its lowest bargain in our paper-to-day to Christmas buyers. You can do better than to take advantage of them if you desire to make some of your relatives or friends reliable gifts. Mr. Keene is compelled to keep his store open all night to accommodate his customers, many of whom cannot call during the day. This fact alone is worthy of consideration.

"CLUBS" LAWLESS; OWNERS ADMIT IT.

Sudden Descent of Officials Takes Raines Law Violators by Surprise.

ALL OPEN AFTER HOURS.

Lawyers Scott and Page, a Special Agent and Stenographer, Invade Tenderloin.

An investigation of the sham "clubs" in the Tenderloin was begun yesterday by the Excise Bureau of Manhattan and the Bronx in such a startling official manner that the "Presidents" and the "Stewards," who are no less the proprietors, made no attempt at evasion of the questions put to them.

Surprised and confused at the suddenness of the inspection they were forced to admit that their club quarters and halls were kept open between the hours of 1 a. m. and 5 p. m., regardless of the law. And all the information solicited and obtained was carefully noted down by an official stenographer. The investigating party was composed of Lawyer Alfred R. Page, counsel to Deputy Commissioner of Excise George Hilliard; Royal Scott, counsel to State Commissioner Lyman; Special Agent Albert Tanner and Stenographer J. F. Clark, attached to the city department. They began their work at 2 o'clock yesterday morning. Mr. Page was armed with a written authority from Commissioner Lyman to inspect clubs, hotels and cafes under section 37 of the Liquor Tax law.

The places visited were the Oriental Club, in Thirty-seventh street; Crib Club—old Broadway Garden—No. 1261 Broadway; Cosmopolitan Social Club—Silver Dollar Smith's place—at Thirty-first street; and Sixth avenue; Artistic Club, Thirtieth street and Sixth avenue; Amor Pleasuro Club, in Twenty-ninth street, and the Chinese restaurant, in Twenty-eighth street.

At all these places the charters and rolls of membership were carefully examined and copied by the stenographer. Many questions were asked, but the main question in each case was, "Why do you keep open after 1 o'clock, selling liquors in violation of the law?"

The proprietor usually made no excuse whatever, or said simply that he was forced to follow an example set by his rivals in "club" life.

Mr. Page said yesterday: "I cannot talk about this matter at the present time. I am not prepared to say what I shall do. It is a fact that the clubs were running in violation of the law."

All the places we visited were running; said Mr. Scott. "When we asked the police why they did not close the alleged clubs they replied that the Magistrates would not stand by them."

Mr. Scott is a fellow townsman of Senator John Raines. He returned yesterday to his home, at Canandaigua, N. Y.

AN FOON REMAINS MISS CLARK'S WARD.

Justice Decides That Her Chinese Mother May Not Have Her.

MRS. HO BO LEE TOO POOR.

She Smokes Opium and Lives with Her Husband in Abject Squalor and Misery.

Little Ah Foon's mother walked in vain to the court house, in the daylight, through the crowds of the Dowry, Park row and the City Hall Park, that stare at women of her race because they are curiosities here. Little Ah Foon's mother pleaded in vain in the stenographer's room in the County Court House, in radiant phrases that a mechanical interpreter chattered.

Her eyes were eloquent, her hands were supplicating, but she may not have her daughter. Ah Foon is to be a Christian, and Miss Helen F. Clark, director of the Evangel and Home Mission, in Mott street, is to be her foster-mother. Miss Clark obtained Little Ah Foon when the child's mother was ill.

Ah Foon's mother objects, now that she is in good health, to her daughter's separation from her. Well, let her object. Miss Clark says that it is perverse of that Chinese mother to object, that she lives in the squalor of the Mott street tenements, that she is unable to make a Christian woman of little Ah Foon, and Justice Bischoff agrees with Miss Clark, in these words, that give little Ah Foon to her:

Assuming the fact to be that the child, the child is legitimate, and that accordingly the order of adoption obtained by the respondent upon the consent of the mother only was invalid, still the custody of the child is not to be awarded the father if her welfare is best conserved by her remaining in the care of the respondent—Miss Clark.

The well-being of the child is the main question to be considered in cases of this character, and the evidence leads me to the view that the child is fortunate to escape the influence of her home life, and to receive an enlightened upbringing such as the respondent can assure her.

Acceptable proof has been produced that their parents are opium smokers and deal in opium; that, in general, their moral tendencies are low, that they have become accustomed to an abject and degraded manner of living, and that the child has been neglected physically, and would be in very probable danger of degradation morally, should she remain with them.

It is suggested that the parents are no worse than their neighbors, but the testimony is to the effect that not more than 5 per cent of our Chinese residents include such a class.

Justice Bischoff did not see Ah Foon's mother, Mrs. Ho Bo Lee, and her husband, and their friends, in a line in the stenographer's room in the County Court House, pleading with every expression in their features, so unappealing usually for Ah Foon's mother. Justice Bischoff gave his decision upon the evidence submitted to him. Referee James J. Neulis.



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